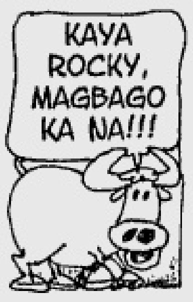
GMA to cops: Hunt JI operatives in RP

Story on PAGE A2

Palace usec grounded over leak in the clouds


KAYA ROCKY, MAGBAGO KA NA!!!

By Juliet Javellana

THIS is one leak that the Palace definitely wants plugged.

After losing control of his bladder in public, Press Undersecretary Rocky Nazareno

PALACE/A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Wednesday, October 22, 2003 ★★ 64 pages / 6 sections / vol. 18 / no. 316 P15

Pressure on FPJ mounts

APEC leaders in finest Thai silk pose for posterity on Tuesday at the Ananta SamakhomThrone Hall in Bangkok. First row, from left, Alejandro Toledo of Peru, Phan Van Khai of Vietnam, Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea, Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines, Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand, Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia, Helen Clark of New Zealand, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, Junichiro Koizumi of Japan, Michael Somare of Papua New Guinea. Second row, from left, Vladimir Putin of Russia, Hu Jintao of China, John Howard of Australia, George W. Bush of the United States, Vincente Fox of Mexico, Goh Chok Tong of Singapore, Jean Chretien of Canada, Lee Yuan-tseh of Chinese Taipei, Ricardo Lagos Escobar of Chile, Tung Chee-hwa of Hong Kong.

Decision of actor expected tomorrow

**By Christine O. Avendaño
Michael Lim Ubac
and Carlito Pablo**

A FERNANDO Poe Jr.-Loren Legarda team up—a combination of the glitter of show biz and the glow of TV—is being pushed by the opposition for the presidential election next May.

Legarda describes the team up as a "political blockbuster" and a "box-office hit," although she says she has not decided whether she will be the running mate of Poe, a close friend of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The chances of Poe accepting the opposition's draft are now 85 percent, Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo (LDP, Aurora), sister of the president of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Partido, said yesterday.

Legarda, a newscaster of the country's biggest TV network before she became senator, is the "front runner" among those being considered by the opposition as its vice presidential candidate, LDP president Sen. Edgardo Angara said.

Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III said he would announce tomorrow whether the action king would run.

"He has been a reluctant participant in this," said Sotto, who has been talking to Poe to convince him to run under the banner of the united opposition.

Sotto, a TV emcee and actor before he became senator, said Poe was finally weighing his options after several nongovernment organizations "sprouted all over the country" and clamored for him to run.

"When these different private

PRESSURE/A10

21 Apec leaders wear $2,200 Thai silk shirts

BANGKOK—When the 21 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders posed for their traditional group photograph yesterday, they were decked out in hand-crafted Thai silk shirts whose value extends well beyond the means of most of the people they represent.

The leaders swept up to the lavish Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall, site of the Apec summit, in a mix of royal blue, maroon, pale green and brown shirts bearing golden images of animals and flowers to greet their host, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

The shirts were made by weavers and tailors in a village in northeast Thailand, the country's poorest region. Their value was estimated at about 90,000 baht ($2,200) each,

21 APEC/A11

Apec vows to dismantle all terror groups

BANGKOK—Leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation yesterday vowed to dismantle terrorist organizations, strive for peace on the Korean peninsula and work to "re-energize" multilateral trade talks at the conclusion of their summit here.

The 21 heads of state and government, including US President George W. Bush, also agreed to eliminate weapons of mass destruction after two days of talks dominated by the war on terror and the threat posed by Stalinist North Korea.

"We agreed that transnational terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction pose direct and profound challenges to Apec's vision of free, open and prosperous economies," the Apec leaders said in a joint declaration.

They committed to take "all essential actions to dismantle, fully and without delay, transnational terrorist groups that threaten the Apec economies."

Agreement was also reached on curbing the spread of so-called

APEC/A11

Conjoined Filipino twins hurdle first of 4 operations

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The first of up to four operations intended to separate 18-month-old conjoined Filipino twins at The Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM) in New York went "absolutely smoothly," according to surgeons.

"The twins are doing great," Dr. James T. Goodrich, director of the CHAM Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery and leader of the team of surgeons attending to Clarence and Carl Aguirre, said in a statement released by the hospital yesterday.

"Everything went according to plan, and we expect Carl and Clarence will be able to resume their physical therapy ... after a few more days here at CHAM," Goodrich said.

The twins are joined at the top of their heads and share a major vein that drains blood from the brain to the heart. They

CONJOINED/A10

CLARENCE and Carl Aguirre rest at the recovery room after the first of a series of surgical operations to separate them at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York City Monday. AP

Erap seen as key to INC nod for GMA '04 bid

**By Juliet Javellana
and Volt Contreras**

A GOVERNMENT official yesterday said ousted President Joseph Estrada was the key to the Iglesia ni Cristo's support for Ms Macapagal's presidential bid.

"They want house arrest for the former President," said the official, who asked not to be named.

Another official with access to the INC leadership, Housing Secretary Mike Defensor, said house arrest for Estrada was the INC's position "long before" but added that he "cannot speak for them now."

"I think the basic point raised not only by the Iglesia but by other sectors is that he (Estrada) should be given the respect and recognition due him as a former head of state," Defensor said.

"But I don't think the Iglesia would lobby for it."

ERAP/A10

Jose Pidal controversy splits Senate ranks

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE JOSE Pidal controversy has divided senators along partisan lines.

The Senate blue ribbon committee and the constitutional amendments committee have come up with contrasting opinions on whether Ignacio Arroyo, brother of the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo, could invoke his right to privacy in refusing to answer questions that the Senate inquiry would raise about his alleged Jose Pidal bank accounts.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said yesterday that the constitutional amendments committee, which he chairs, had firmed up a resolution rejecting the ruling earlier drafted by the blue ribbon committee, which said that Ignacio could not be compelled to answer queries by the joint committee investigating the Jose Pidal bank accounts.

Angara said eight of 14 committee members had signed in support of this resolution.

He said two administration senators voted for his resolution, Senate Pro Tempore Juan Flavier and Majority Leader Sen. Loren Legarda. The others who voted in favor of the resolution were opposition Senators Vicente Sotto III, Angara, Rodolfo Biazon, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Teresa Aquino-Oreta and John Osmeña.

"I think that all three committees will have to get together and resolve it, if not by persuasion then by vote, by raising of hands. That is the way democratic societies decide," Angara told reporters.

He expressed the hope that the three committees—constitutional amendments, blue ribbon and banks—would resolve the matter this week.

But administration Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, said that his ruling upholding Ignacio's right to privacy prevailed because his committee was the primary committee tasked with investigating opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson's allegations against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Lacson has alleged that the First Gentleman is the owner of

JOSE/A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/22/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

GMA orders terror hunt

By Clarissa S. Batino in *Bangkok* and TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra in *Manila*

BANGKOK (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the military and the police to intensify their manhunt for Jemaah Islamiyah operatives in the country even as a top security official said an undetermined number of the regional terror group's members were in the Philippines and may be planning to use biological weapons.

The President, who is attending the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Leaders' Summit here, said she had directed the Armed Forces and Philippine National Police to publicize the identities and photos of terrorist suspects at large and that she expected results.

"Our efforts are being watched closely from the sidelines of the Apec summit and I would like to see continuing antiterrorist strikes backed up by close intelligence and operational fusion," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

The President's directive followed reports from Manila of a raid on a suspected JI safe house in Cotabato City on Sunday although no arrests were made.

Authorities yesterday directed security officials in the country's airports and other possible "exit points" to be on the lookout for suspected JI members who eluded arrest in the Cotabato City raid.

"We are positive that they are still here," said National Security Adviser Roilo Golez in Manila.

Deputy Director General Virtus Gil, the PNP operations chief and head of Task Force Mindanao, said the PNP was closing in on the JI members based mainly in Mindanao and might make substantial arrests in "30 to 45" days.

"They're on the run because they know they're being hunted," he said.

Ms Macapagal has vowed to capture all the JI operatives that have escaped the dragnet. "We are on an intensive manhunt for JI operatives. They will be accounted for sooner or later," she said.

She also urged the public to "stay calm, keep their eyes and ears open and help the authorities" in the manhunt for the JI operatives.

"I have also directed the authorities to make an accurate and complete account of the lethal weapons discovered or captured so that the public will be informed of the facts and not be duly alarmed by sensationalized reports," she said.

Ms Macapagal said that she supported "the closer integration of political and economic security in Apec."

"We must properly project our initiatives on this score," she said.

The President said she received positive feedback from Apec leaders on the death of Indonesian bomb maker Fathur Roman al-Ghozi in Mindanao two weeks ago.

"I have not received any complaint from the Indonesian government. I was even congratulated by Indonesian President Megawati (Sukarnoputri)," she said.

Some, including his family, suspect that Al-Ghozi was executed by his police captors and not killed in a gun battle as claimed by Filipino officials.

The military has said that the Cotabato City raid was part of a crackdown on the JI, after the arrest on Oct. 2 of the group's suspected No. 2 man in the Philippines, Taufiq Rifqi and the neutralization of JI bomb expert Al-Ghozi.

Gil said that although no biochemical residues were found in the house that was raided in Cotabato City, a document detailing the process of making biological weapons suggested that JI members "were trying to produce one already." *(See related story on page .)*

He said the regional terrorist group may have been "off-balanced" by the arrest of Taufik Rifqi.

The group is headed by Gul Kipli, the top JI leader in the country, according to Director Eduardo Matillano, chief of the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Only manuals, not bio-terror agents, found in Cotabato raid

OFFICIALS yesterday backtracked over claims that a bio-terrorism manual and traces of biological weapons had been found at a hide-out believed to be that of the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror group.

Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia said examination of powders found during a raid on an apartment in Cotobato City on Sunday showed they did not contain the tetanus bacteria as originally reported.

"Our finding is, there were no chemical or biological agents found," said Garcia, who was quoted by press reports on Monday as claiming that bio-chemical weapons residues and bio-terror manuals had been found.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. said no chemical weapons or viral strains or residues were found, based on tests conducted by the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory with the help of their US counterparts. What was found were "very small quantities" of materials for bomb-making, he said.

"There is no such thing as tetanus bacillus. This has to be stressed in order to quell any speculation. What was found is an explosive material called RDX, it is an ordinary material used in bomb-making," Lina said.

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, the head of the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, also denied having identified the raided house as a Jemaah Islamiyah safe house. He said what was established was that the house was being used by terrorists whose affiliation was still not clear.

PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane, in an ambush interview, also said no biochemical substances were found, "only manuals that describe how to use a virus."

Bio-terrorism manual

PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said Garcia's reported claim on Monday that a bio-terrorism manual had been found were not substantiated. He said only "notes on bio-terror, bio-toxic materials" were discovered.

Garcia's comments on Monday had raised fears that the JI, which has been accused of the bombings on the Indonesian island of Bali last year, may have been planning to launch a biological attack in the region.

Garcia was reported as saying that bomb-making matériel—including explosive powders, watches and disassembled rechargeable batteries—had been found at the hide-out.

President Macapagal-Arroyo issued a statement yesterday calling on the police and military to be accurate in their reporting "so that the public will be informed of the facts and not be unduly alarmed by sensationalized reports."

She also called on the public to remain calm and cooperate with the authorities who are tracking down suspects from JI, who want to create an Islamic state across Southeast Asia.

Garcia yesterday decried the manner in which some media organizations had reported the raid.

He said some members of the media had caused undue alarm when they reported that the raiders seized biological weapons from the house.

"There could be some irresponsible elements of the media who want to [produce a] scoop and, without counter-checking, made the report," Garcia said.

"Common sense. If it is a residue of a biological weapon, it should not just be left behind. It should be placed in a sealed container. The result of our crime laboratory now confirms that what was reported was not true," he added.

Police said numerous documents including several books on speaking English, computer manuals and Muslim militant literature with titles such as "Jihad in the Philippines" and "Commander Muslim Army" had also been recovered.

The raid in Cotabato City came after a man described by security authorities as JI's No. 2 in the Philippines, Indonesian Taufiq Rifqi, was arrested there two weeks ago.

News of Taufiq's arrest came after security forces fatally shot Fathur Roman al-Ghozi, an Indonesian terror fugitive and confessed Jemaah Islamiyah member, on Oct. 12.

The Philippines' anti-terror allies have expressed concern in recent days about JI's activities on Mindanao which borders Indonesia and Malaysia and has been a hotbed of a decades-old Muslim separatist rebellion.

The military said on Monday it raided a house suspected of being used by operatives of the Jemaah Islamiyah, seizing bomb-making materials and notes on how to build rocket-propelled grenades and biochemical weapons. *AFP and AP with reports from Nelson Flores and Leila Salaverria, Metro Manila and Edwin Fernandez, Charlie C. Senase, Rosa-May V. de Guzman and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Nang unang mag-eskwela
Nang unang mag-bike si Junior
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ang una niyang kapiling.

Kahit nasa Saudi ang ama, siya pa rin ang unang takbuhan ni Junior.
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Parang siya mismo ang nag-abot ng pera kaya naman laging panatag ang loob ng inang si Lourdes Cruz.
Walang hiningi si Junior na 'di naibigay ng ama sa madaling panahon!

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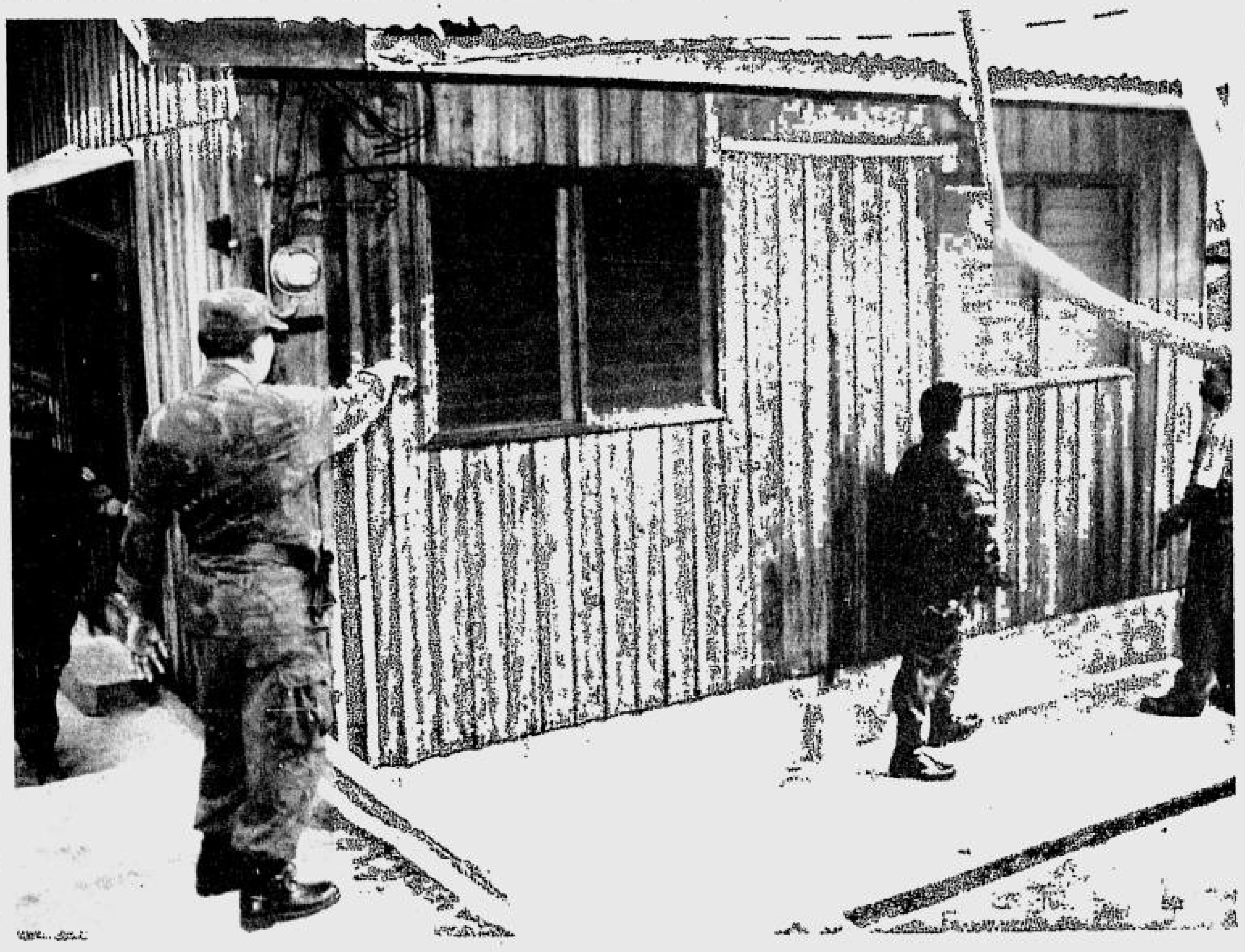


POLICEMEN secure a suspected hideout of Jemaah Islamiyah in Cotabato City, where they found bomb making equipment. REUTERS

Being a Marcos a baggage–Imee

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—She is interested in running for Senate but Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos admits that being a Marcos could be a "tremendous baggage."

Ms Marcos, who was in the city upon the invitation of Leyte Gov. Remedios Petilla for the 59th Leyte Gulf Landing Anniversary last Monday, told the INQUIRER that she has been receiving invitations coming from different political parties assuring her that they have a slot for her for a Senate seat.

But she admitted that the issues hounding the Marcos family might prove to be a big handicap for her.

"My brother and I ... its always been a problem because we carry so much baggage. We inherited a tremendous amount of baggage," she said. Ms Marcos said it stemmed from allegations that their family acquired ill-gotten wealth.

Her brother, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., ran and lost during the 1998 senatorial election as he was dogged with the ill-gotten wealth issue allegedly amassed by them during the time of their father, ex-president Ferdinand Marcos.

The family, however, claimed that the loss of now Governor Marcos was due mainly to the "dagdag-bawas" (vote shaving) scheme purportedly instigated against him by the ruling political party.

Imee, eldest daughter of the former strongman, pleaded to the Filipino people not to be "emotional" on this issue as she also asked their opponents not to turn it as a political tool against her.

"What we need is not to be emotional; we cannot be political and one-sided about this argument. What is important is to be open-minded and see exactly what really happened during that period so that we won't repeat the same mistake," she told the INQUIRER.

"Well, all I have to say is give us a chance and maybe you will get to know us better," she added.

Ms Marcos reiterated that her family is willing to enter into negotiations with the government as far as settling the ill-gotten wealth issue.

The Marcos family, however, maintained that they have no ill-gotten wealth.

GSIS chief apologizes; processing of loans back in full blast

By Gil Cabacungan

GARCIA

GOVERNMENT Service and Insurance System president and general manager Winston Garcia yesterday apologized to government employees for the inconvenience caused by the suspension in the processing and release of their loan applications in the past several months.

In a statement released by Malacañang, Garcia said: "We apologize for the temporary inconvenience that the reforms have caused. The reforms were instituted to lengthen and strengthen the life of the GSIS fund."

He said the policy to suspend processing loans while initiating reforms (upgrading the computers) in the system was a policy solely of the GSIS.

"The president has disagreed with said suspension and has stated that at no time should the GSIS members be inconvenienced while reforms are being instituted," Garcia said.

President Macapagal-Aroyo had decided to keep Garcia in his post despite mounting clamor from irate government employees for his ouster after the latter promised to admit his mistake and return the GSIS loan releases back to normal.

Garcia announced yesterday that the GSIS has resumed the processing of salary and policy loan applications "full blast" while the internal reforms continue.

Aside from saying sorry for the delays, Garcia also denied ever stating that the "GSIS could not disburse funds to members due to the non-remittance of contributions by certain government agencies," Garcia said.

The GSIS had earlier claimed that it was having difficulty meeting its obligations to members because of P30 billion in unpaid remittances from government agencies. The GSIS made the claim after the Department of Finance charged the GSIS chief with financial mismanagement.

"In the course of updating the records of the GSIS, we have stumbled across several instances of unreconciled remittances which occurred before the Macapagal administration. This is an inherited problem and we are now in the process of reconciling the accounts with the subject government agencies," Garcia said.

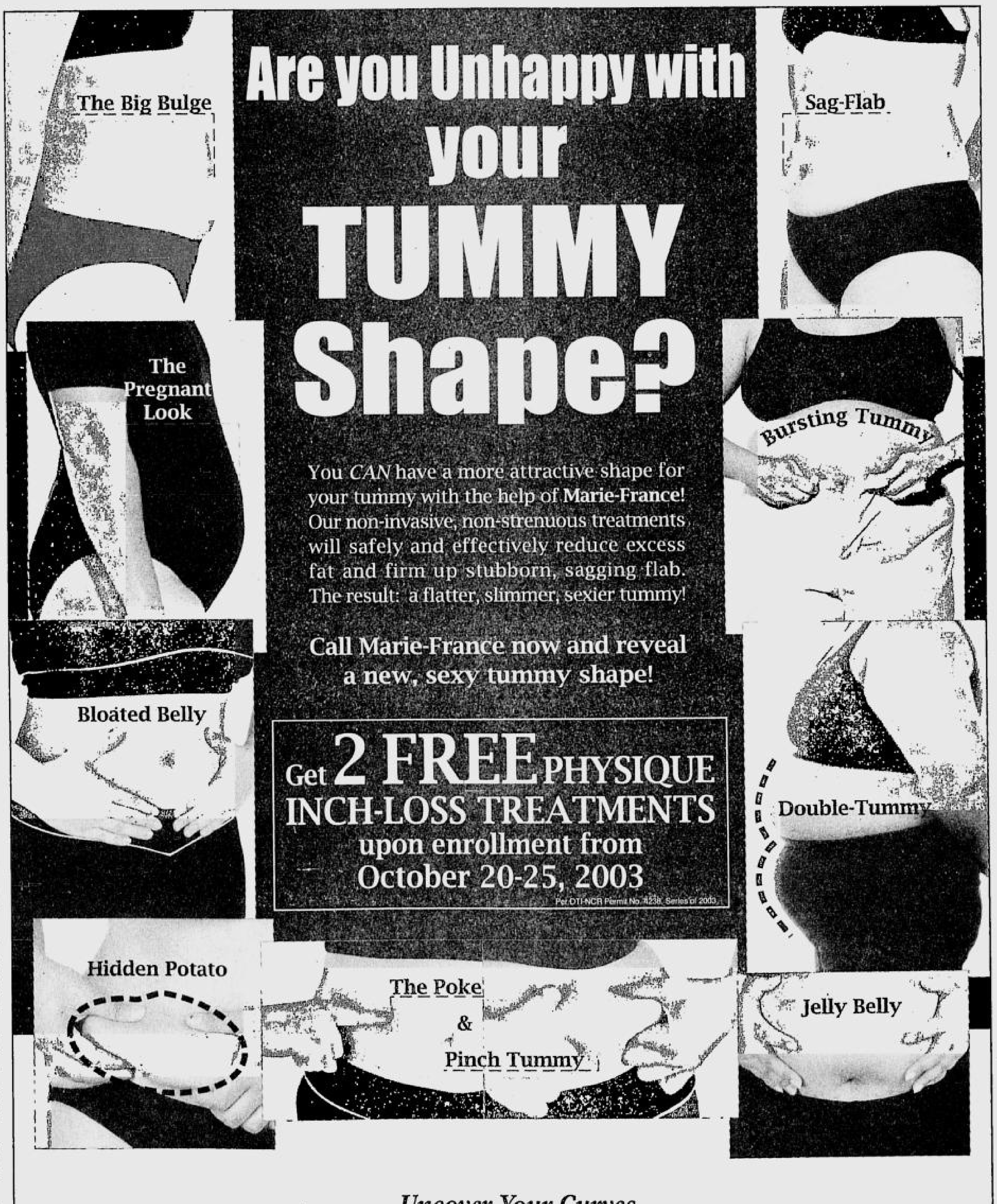
Garcia also stressed that despite problems in the release of loans, GSIS remained in sound financial condition and was at its most profitable. "All legitimate loans and claims will be paid," Garcia said.

Meanwhile, the party-list group Bayan Muna has criticized President Macapagal's decision to retain Garcia despite the complaints against him and his administration of the government agency.

"It's a massive insult and injury to the thousands of government employees who have already been greatly inconvenienced by the delays in the release of GSIS loans," said Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran in a statement.

"The President has opted to listen to Garcia's explanations and take his excuses as the iron-clad truth instead of taking the side of government employees who are the victims of Garcia's mismanagement of the GSIS," Beltran added.

Beltran said Garcia has evaded the House queries on the exorbitant expenses the GSIS has incurred beautifying the agency building. *Norman Bordadora*



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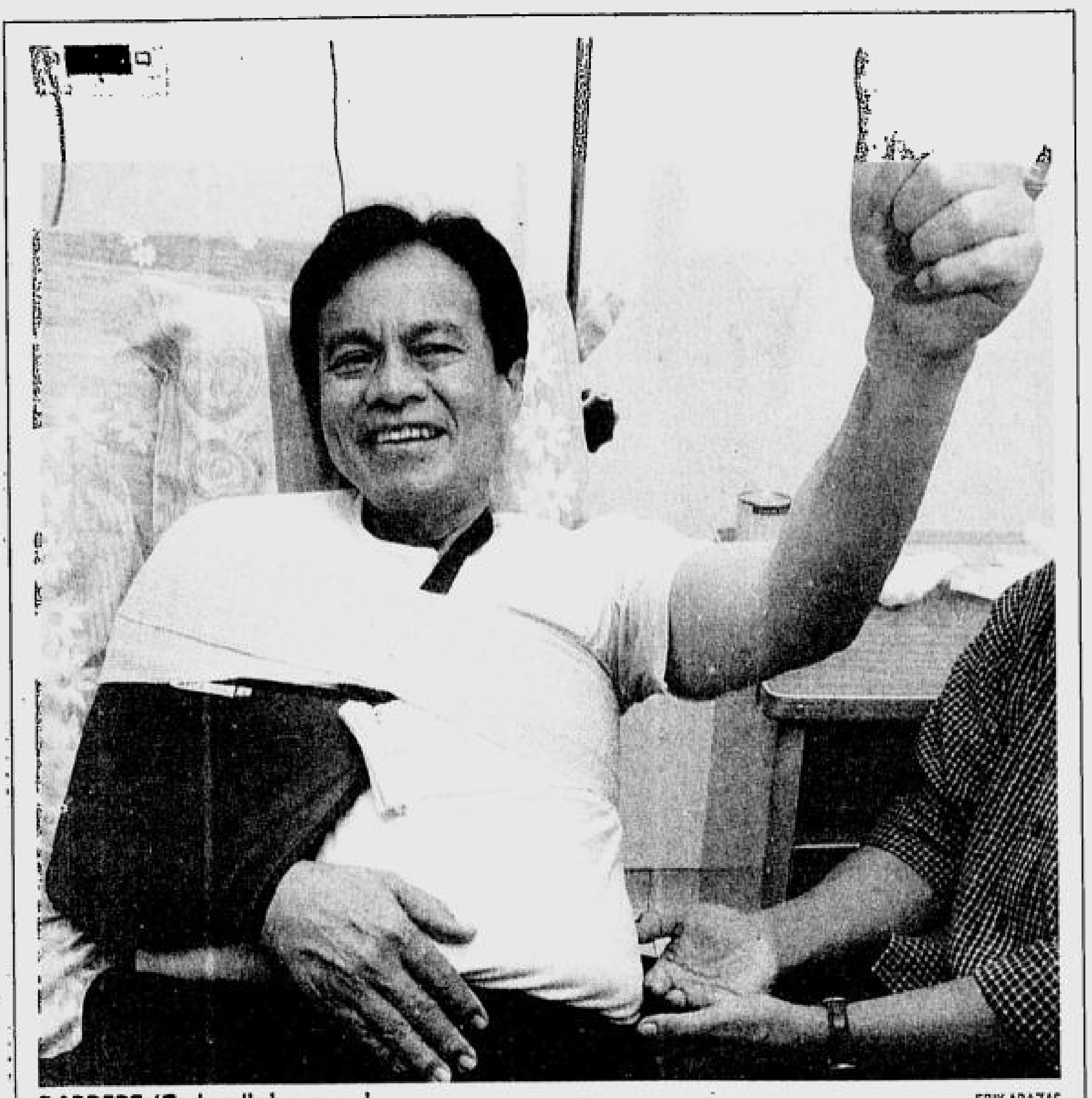

BARBERS: 'God really loves me.'

ERIK ARAZAS

Barbers hurt in freak accident

By Christine O. Avendaño

SEN. Robert Barbers fractured his shoulder bone Monday night in a freak accident at a gathering at the Manila Pavilion where he was a guest speaker.

Barbers said he might leave the hospital last night or even today. The senator has been confined at the Manila Doctors Hospital since Monday night.

But he said yesterday he would definitely attend today's session, albeit, with a sling in his right shoulder which he has to wear for the next two months.

The accident happened at around 8:30 p.m. Monday when Barbers was about to make a speech before the 21st anniversary of the United Nations Walkers Club at the Manila Pavillion on UN Avenue.

Barbers said he fell down when he tried to help the emcee of the gathering and UN Walkers Club president Jojo Baltazar from falling after the latter slipped. At that time, he was about to make his speech after he was introduced by Baltazar.

But since Baltazar was bigger, Barbers said he ended up as the one falling down.

He said he was brought to the hospital by ambulance a few minutes later.

Barbers said Baltazar had already seen him in the hospital yesterday and apologized for the accident.

He said he was glad he did not have to face surgery for his injury.

"God really loves me," said Barbers, who is a survivor of throat cancer.

High court decides to hear out Gringo

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court yesterday set for oral arguments Sen. Gregorio Honasan's motion for the tribunal to stop the Department of Justice's preliminary probe of the coup d'état charges against him.

After deliberating on Honasan's nine-page appeal, the high court yesterday set the oral arguments for Nov. 18.

The petition was filed on Oct. 8 by lawyer Daniel Gutierrez, who earlier sought a temporary restraining order against the DOJ, citing "lack of jurisdiction," while the senator's case was heard.

Honasan is facing coup d'état charges for allegedly being one of the leaders of the July 27 mutiny.

Gutierrez said conducting oral arguments would also benefit the high court, image-wise.

"The case being built against Honasan is closely followed by the media and reported to an eager public. It would certainly clean up many misconceptions about the judicial process... and the fairness and objectivity of the judicial branch vis-à-vis Congress and the Executive," the lawyer said.

He cited the SC for defusing "politically explosive situations between the Executive and Legislative departments" in the past.

In a 59-page petition for certiorari filed earlier, Gutierrez asked the high court to transfer preliminary investigation of the charges from the DOJ to the Ombudsman because the criminal acts allegedly committed by Honasan had been "in the line of duty."

If his client should be prosecuted, Gutierrez insisted, it should be by the Ombudsman, "an independent constitutional office," and not the DOJ, which he described as "an over-eager executive office."

HONASAN

The petition said: "Even assuming for the sake of argument that the fabricated advocacy of armed struggle is true, a coup d' état intended to achieve the success of a legislative reform program would still be in relation to the Senator's public office. Any advocacy of a national recovery program, whether violent or peaceful, would be in relation to the office of a Senator."

Pending an SC decision on this first appeal, the DOJ had continued with its probe of Honasan. It even set the case for resolution when the senator failed to file a counter-affidavit.

Gutierrez pointed to the DOJ procedure's "lack of credibility."

"The indices of pre-judging and railroading are clear and plenty," he said, and invoked the "protection" of the high court.

Magdalo leaders clam up

By Philip C. Tubeza

FORGET the "bombshell."

Leaders of the Magdalo group, after the Feliciano Commission ruled that they were involved in a grand conspiracy to topple the government, clammed up during yesterday's hearing on the military's alleged role in the Davao bombings.

Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV, James Layug, and Captains Gerardo Gambala, Milo Maestrecampo, Gary Alejano, and Nicasio Faeldon invoked the "right to remain silent" before the Maniwang Commission at the Department of Justice.

Headed by Fr. Pedro Maniwang of Davao, the commission was tasked by President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate the attacks on the Davao International Airport and Sasa Wharf which left a total of 38 people dead and 190 others injured.

The mutineers earlier promised to present strong evidence to prove their allegation that the military was involved in the blasts. But yesterday the six officers went back on their word and refused to give further oral testimony.

In a group statement that Faeldon read, the rebel leaders expressed disappointment: "We pledged our cooperation to this honorable commission, hoping that your independence and integrity would win over the administration's determination to hide the truth. Indications, however, show the contrary."

The statement said the Feliciano Commission had "virtually" condemned them. "Not only did they make the expected finding that what happened on July 27, 2003 was a coup; they even went to the extent of saying that the issues we raised then were nothing but 'proferred justification' for the 'power grab.'"

Even before the Maniwang Commission could start gathering evidence, the officers said, the government—through the Feliciano panel—had conditioned the public into believing that their charges could not be proven.

"It seems that the testimony we are about to give... will simply be used to justify a whitewash," they said.

Lawyer Roel Pulido, the mutineers' counsel, said his clients were questioning, not the integrity and independence of the Maniwang Commission, but the sincerity of the President, who appointed the panel.

Pulido said the mutineers were offering to help the commission, not as witnesses, but by giving information that "will lead to the facts."

Maestrecampo submitted the affidavit he gave the Feliciano Commission earlier, which recounted how he was allegedly ordered to bomb a mosque. Trillanes also gave a paper that analyzed Oplan Greenbase, said to be the government's plan to conduct terror attacks in the South.

"We are giving you (these) leads," Maestrecampo said, "if you are really intent on pursuing (the truth)."

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida, a member of the commission, considered the mutineers' attitude a "blatant display of arrogance" and a reflection of their "characters as soldiers."

GMA in Bangkok: No talk of politics here

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKOK (via PLDT)—After proclaiming herself the leader of opposing forces in Edsa Dos and Edsa Tres, President Macapagal-Arroyo clammed up and refused to answer any more political questions.

"I am not talking about politics here," the President said yesterday when asked about reports that her campaign team for the 2004 polls had started to consolidate.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the President would talk about politics once she was back in Manila. While here, he said, Ms Macapagal meant to concentrate on issues related to the just-concluded 11th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' summit.

The President and her team left Bangkok at 5 p.m. yesterday.

Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II said the President's disposition "underscored her resolve to go back to work and not preoccupy herself with preparations for the elections."

However, a source said the GMA campaign team continued to gather strength, counting as its members housing czar Michael Defensor, Presidential Liaison Officer Jose Rufino and Rep. Prospero Pichay.

Assistant Press Secretary Rocky Nazareno was reportedly re-assigned to the team.

Earlier identified as part of the machinery were presidential advisers Gabby Claudio (legal) and Hernani Braganza (political), presidential chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao, deputy chief of staff Rene Velasco, and Palace media group members including Tony Abaya.

It looked like Ms Macapagal was already campaigning when she spoke before the Filipino community on Sunday. Pocket-size 2004 calendars bearing her picture and signature, and a slogan saying "Kampeon ng Overseas Filipinos" were distributed during the dinner.

In her defense, Roxas said the calendars were "not necessarily campaign materials."

Of the 5,000 Filipinos in Thailand, 1,010 have registered for absentee voting.

But during her briefing yesterday, the President stuck to the Apec issues. She said the results of the summit were "tightly woven into (our) national priorities and policy directions."

The President claimed she led the call of developing economies to remove "contentious issues" introduced into the World Trade Organization agenda that were more within the realm of "sovereign policymaking rather than multilateral trade."

Also, she insisted, the Philippines would play a key role in regional antiterror efforts. "The leaders have called for the elimination of terrorist groups that threaten Apec economies. We are moving swiftly against terrorist cells in the Philippines. The recent raid on a Jemaah Islamiyah safehouse in Cotabato, the arrest of a top JI operative in Zamboanga, and the death of (Fathur Rohman) Al-Ghozi show the determination (with) which our government is mopping up this threat," Ms Macapagal said.

"We have proposed the concrete step of putting up in the Philippines the prototype of a secure port that could rapidly clear incoming and outgoing cargo of toxic materials without hampering the normal pace of trade," she said.

Lacson, Arroyo welcome libel trial

By Tarra Quismundo

BOTH the camps of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo yesterday welcomed the upcoming trial of the libel cases filed by the First Gentleman against the senator, saying this will allow them to ferret out the truth.

"It's a blessing in disguise," was how Lacson's lawyers described the libel case that the First Gentleman filed against their client.

"If we go to trial, we will be able to subpoena bank documents that would prove the existence of the Pidal accounts," said Abe Espejo, one of Lacson's lawyers, in an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday.

On the other hand, the counsel of Arroyo yesterday expressed satisfaction at the filing of Lacson's sworn statement in reply to the libel cases filed by Arroyo against the senator.

"We had eagerly awaited being face to face in court with Senator Lacson and his group," said Arroyo's lawyer Jesus I. Santos. "This case will finally force to the surface the truth about his baseless accusations against the Arroyo family and other innocent private persons."

Lacson's lawyers want to take the case to trial to enable the senator to prove that he was telling the truth in his Jose Pidal expose.

But Santos said Lacson's counter-affidavit would leave the senator open to the criminal charge of perjury.

"I am looking forward to reading the counter-affidavit submitted by Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Now that he has a sworn statement, he could be held liable for perjury," Santos said.

Espejo said that the case, if tried in court, would give Lacson the chance to bring out into the open documents protected by the bank secrecy law, through a court order.

"It will favor the senator whether the case would be dismissed or it will go to trial," said Espejo, adding that they could also summon bank personnel to testify to the existence of the Pidal accounts.

In a privilege speech at the Senate, Lacson accused the First Gentleman of laundering some P200 million worth of campaign contributions to President Macapagal-Arroyo in secret bank accounts under the alias Jose Pidal.

Arroyo's camp had earlier declared that they have bank certificates to prove that the Pidal accounts do not exist.

Ex-agri exec calls trader's bribery charge ridiculous

A FORMER Department of Agriculture official yesterday branded as ridiculous the accusations of a Chinese businessman that he allegedly extorted P4.9 million in exchange for the approval of import permits for vegetables imports.

Jose Macaspac III, a former DA consultant for special concerns, said the accusations of vegetable trader Henry O against him were meant to cover up the latter's smuggling activities.

Macaspac said he will also file extortion charges against O in addition to the libel charges he earlier filed against the vegetable trader.

Agriculture Secretary Luisito Lorenzo Jr. also downplayed the allegations, saying Henry O sought him out for the release of a carrot shipment before going to the media.

According to O, he gave Macaspac P1.9 million in checks on three occasions from January to March this year as "facilitation fees" for the approval of his import permits.

"This is aside from the P3 million that I gave him in cash," O said in a hasty press conference with DA reporters on Oct. 8.

Records showed that O issued United Overseas Bank checks to Macaspac on Jan. 16, Feb. 28 and March 27. These, then, were encashed from the UOB Branch on Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

Macaspac admitted encashing the three checks early this year, but explained that these were payments for a public relations contract which he and O agreed on November 2002.

At that time, Macaspac said, he was not yet connected with the DA. He joined the DA on March 16, 2003 and resigned on July 31, 2003.

"The vegetable shipment arrived in October this year and O claimed I was paid in March. That's ridiculous!" he said.*Norman Bordadora*

Security fears stalled Bush speech—Golez

BLAME the "overly cautious" security men of President George W. Bush for the United States head of state being an hour late for his appointment with the assembled members of Congress last Saturday.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said it was the US Secret Service's overestimation of anti-Bush protesters' capability to create mayhem that resulted in the delay and near-cancellation of Bush's address.

Bush was scheduled to speak before the joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives at the Batasan complex at 3:30 p.m. Saturday but turned up an hour late because of "security concerns," Golez said.

The US security people were apparently alarmed when they spotted hundreds of protesters marching along the thoroughfares leading to the Batasan, chanting anti-US slogans, carrying anti-US streamers and placards and burning American flags.

He said US national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and the Secret Service decided there and then to delay Bush's departure from Malacañang.

"They were worried that the crowd might become unmanageable," Golez said at a press briefing.

During the hour-long delay, top Philippine police officials briefed the US team and Golez and Rice had a "heart-to-heart talk," and the green light was eventually given for Bush to travel by land to the Batasan.

"I think what convinced them was the combined effort of the Philippine government to convey to them that everything was going to be okay and it turned out to be okay," Golez said.

The convoy of cars carrying Bush and his entourage arrived at the Batasan, safe and sound. Along the way, a group of protesters even waved at the President, said Golez.

"It could have resulted in a major PR disaster for the country if President Bush had decided not to go ahead with his speech in the Batasan because of inaccurate information that he was getting from his security team," he said.

But Golez said he was not blaming the US security team for their over-cautiousness.

"They are not used to the situation here. They have to depend on their men on the ground and people monitoring from the air," he said. *TJ Burgonio*

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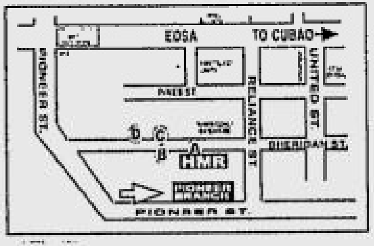

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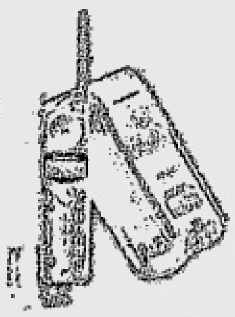

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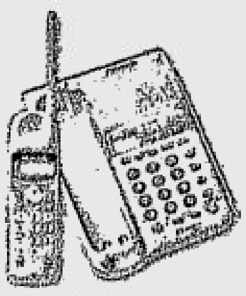

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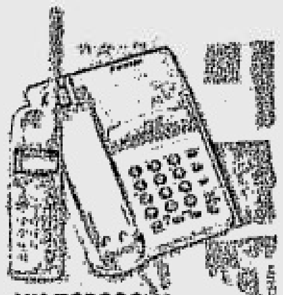

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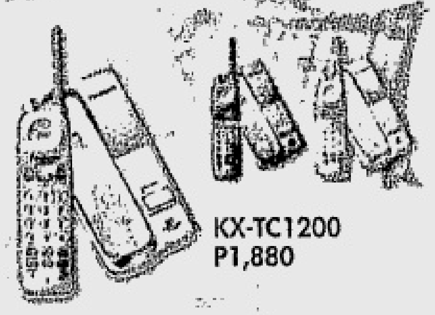

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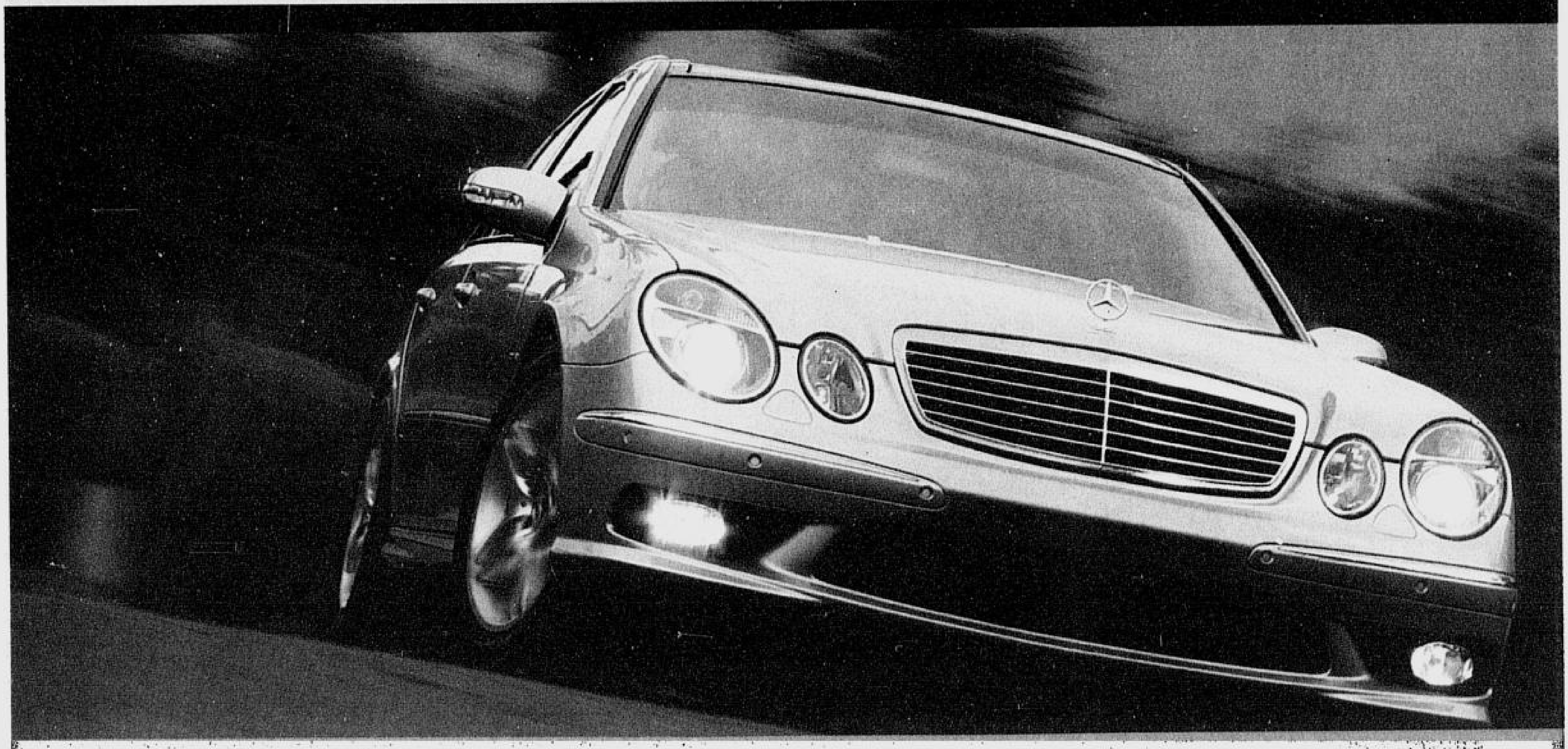

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Ople confident of UN seat

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

A CONFIDENT Foreign Secretary Blas Ople yesterday said he was looking forward to the forthcoming election of the Philippines as a nonpermanent member of the United Nations Security Council tomorrow.

"We need votes from at least 128 countries to win a nonpermanent seat in the Security Council. Our UN Mission in New York City assured me that we have secured enough commitments to win," Ople said in a statement from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Bangkok.

Ople said the country was the unanimous choice of the Asian bloc comprised of 52 countries and its bid for a nonpermanent seat has the support of 139 countries. He said the successful state visit of US President George W. Bush strengthened the country's bid.

The Philippines had been campaigning for one of the five nonpermanent seats in the UNSC soon to be vacated by Bulgaria, Cameroon, Papua New Guinea, Mexico and Syria when their respective terms end this year.

It needs the vote of two-thirds of the UN membership to assume a seat in the UNSC, which it first occupied in 1976. If elected, the Philippines would hold the seat for two years starting on Jan. 1, 2004.

The Philippines is the only Asian country vying for membership in the council. Ople said the country is expected to take the place of Syria, currently the lone and outgoing Asian member in the UNSC.

The permanent members of the UN are the US, UK, the Russian Federation, China and France, while the non-permanent members, whose term would expire this year, are Bulgaria, Papua New Guinea, Mexico and Syria while those whose term would expire next year are Angola, Chile, Germany, Pakistan and Spain.

Ople said the Philippines would assume its nonpermanent seat for two years beginning January 2004. The Philippine government, he said, has been actively campaigning for votes among the 191 member states of the UN since last year during the tenure of retired Philippine Representative to the UN Alfonso Yuchengco.

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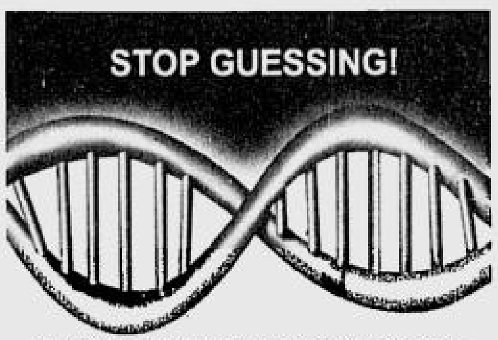

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6 Pinoy sailors missing off Nigeria

SIX FILIPINO seamen are reportedly missing when their tugboat capsized off the coast of Nigeria on Monday.

Reports reaching the Department of Labor and Employment identified the six as Chief Engineer Crispin Nieto, Second Engineer Herminio Mata, oiler Rod Delgado, cook Gerry Gelario and able seamen Alfredo Terana and Honorio Mabale Jr.

The six were part of the crew of MV "Stevens Power," an anchor-handling tugboat, which was involved in an operation off the coast of Nigeria that sank Sunday afternoon at 5:30 p.m..

According to a report sent by the seamen's manning agency to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), a rescue operation has been initiated with divers, several ships and rubber boats deployed in the area, looking for survivors.

The six were recruited by manning agency, Crystal Shipping Inc., which received the report on Sunday afternoon.

"We assure your good office that we will attend to all the necessary arrangements to the family and their compensations as stated in the POEA standard contract," Genie Modelo, vice president for operations of the manning agency said in his letter to the POEA.

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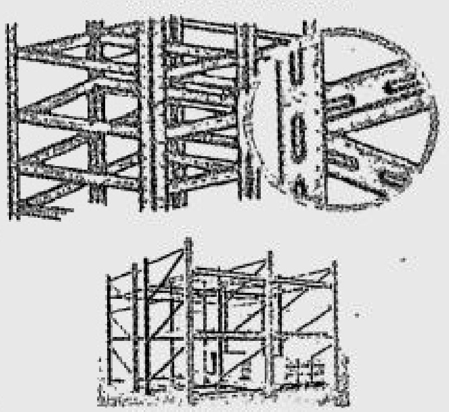

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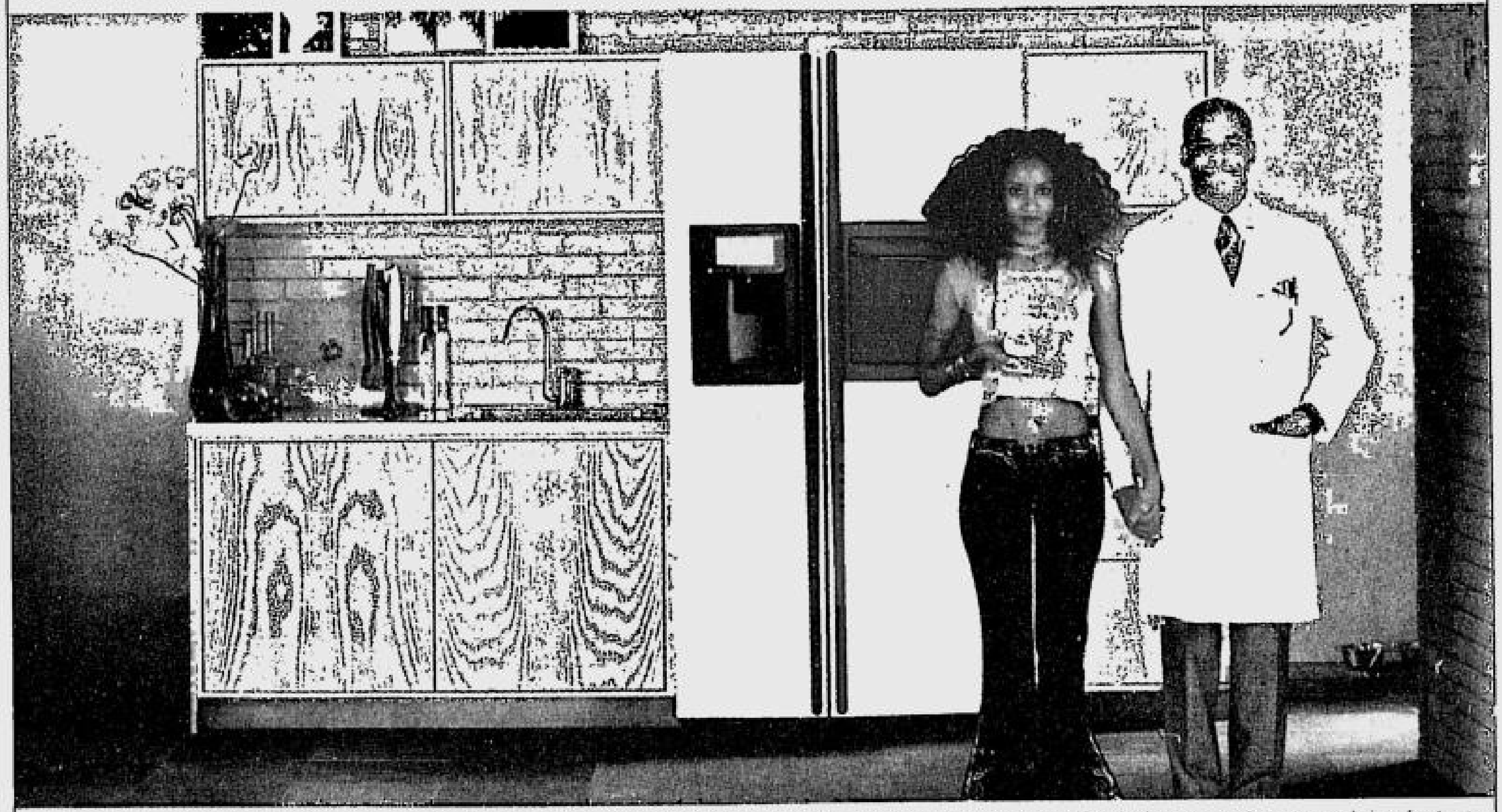

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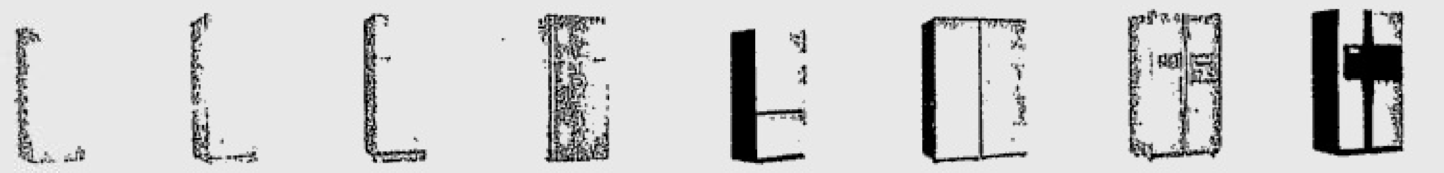

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Tortured woman seen as next Chile president

BACHELET: Gunning for top post. REUTERS

SANTIAGO, Chile—In 1974, soldiers blindfolded and beat Michelle Bachelet in a prison camp. Now thousands of servicemen salute her when she reviews troops at Chile's annual military parade.

Bachelet, 52, a doctor, former health minister and Latin America's first woman defense minister, is the face of the dramatic power shifts in Chile, where socialists ran things in the early 1970s, were quashed in a military coup and a long dictatorship and then returned to power as moderates.

She is also high on the list of possible presidential candidates ahead of 2006 elections.

"The very fact that women are being mentioned as possible candidates for the first time in Chile's history is an advance, not just for women, but for democracy," Bachelet said.

She said it was too early to say whether she will seek nomination as a presidential candidate.

Bachelet does not like to talk about it, but she and her mother were arrested and held at a concentration camp for several months after the Sept. 11, 1973 military coup that launched the 17-year dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

The two then went into exile for five years. Bachelet's father, an Air Force general who worked in the socialist government of ousted President Salvador Allende, died in 1974 of a heart attack in a prison where he was tortured with electric shocks.

It may seem improbable for a center-left woman with such a background to oversee Chile's goose-stepping military. But Bachelet's obvious patriotism, her father's aviator background, her strategy studies in the national military academy and a previous post as adviser to the defense minister, all boost her credibility.

The trust is such that the military backed her when a magazine published a report, which she denied, that she had belonged to an armed rebel group after returning from exile.

Bachelet, who now has a female counterpart in Colombia, has moved forward with big weapons purchases, such as a $660 million contract to buy 10 F-16 fighter jets from Lockheed Martin, and the planned $1.2-billion purchase of six Navy ships, three new and three used.

More importantly to many Chileans, the Army deepened its commitment to respecting human rights under Bachelet. Some 3,000 people died in the early years of the military government, and thousands more were imprisoned and tortured.

Earlier this year moderate Gen. Emilio Cheyre, commander in chief of the Army, earned praise when he pledged that "never again" would Chile suffer human rights abuses.

In a country that was so polarized between left and right, Bachelet's job demands a delicate balancing act. *Reuters*

Israel air strikes kill 10

NUSSEIRAT REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip—Seven Palestinians died and dozens were wounded in the deadliest Israeli air strike in Gaza in six months, as Palestinians charged that a helicopter fired a missile at a crowded refugee camp street while medics were treating casualties.

The Israeli attack late Monday on the Nusseirat camp followed three air strikes in Gaza City in which three people were killed. In yet another attack, Israeli helicopters returned at night to hit an alleged Hamas explosives warehouse targeted earlier in the day, capping one of the most intense days of Israeli air assaults in Gaza in three years of conflict.

Palestinians threatened revenge, but Israel's premier pledged more strikes against militants, pushing Mideast peace efforts farther into the background, although both sides continued to refer to the US-backed "road map" peace plan.

The nighttime strike in the Nusseirat camp in central Gaza, in which 75 people were wounded in addition to the seven killed, was the bloodiest since an April air raid in Gaza City killed nine people.

Residents said Israeli helicopters fired three missiles at the main street, destroying a car. An Israeli Army statement said the vehicle was carrying members of a Palestinian terrorist squad fleeing after a failed attempt to breach the border fence with Israel a few kilometers to the northeast.

Residents said one of the dead was a doctor who was treating victims when a second missile struck. The identity of the other victims was not immediately known.

Israel's Channel 10 TV said that none of them were militants, characterizing the refugee camp strike as a "mistake."

Hundreds of camp residents carried charred pieces of the vehicle aloft and chanted, "Revenge, revenge."

During three years of violence, Israeli air strikes in Gaza have caused dozens of civilian casualties. In April, an air attack killed Hamas leader Said Arabeed and eight other people. In July 2002, 15 people were killed, including nine children, in an air strike that targeted another Hamas leader, Salah Shehadeh.

The three daytime Israeli air strikes targeted Hamas weapons caches, the military said. Also, two militants who the Israelis said tried to retrieve explosives from one of them were killed in a helicopter attack, along with a bystander.

In a statement released in Beirut, the leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad pledged to retaliate for Israel's attacks on Palestinians.

"The two movements agreed to confront the Zionist aggression on our people in Palestine and to urge all (Palestinian) factions and resistance forces to 'coordinate among each other to confront this aggression," the statement said.

The Israelis promised no letup.

"The Israeli military will continue to act to foil terror attacks, capture murderers and liquidate terror organizations," Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday in a speech to parliament.

Also Monday, US officials at the embassy in Tel Aviv confirmed that John Wolf, the head of the team monitoring implementation of the troubled "road map" plan, was not planning to return to the region soon. Wolf left for the United States last month, saying at the time he would be back in 10 days.

A Palestinian bombing attack on a US convoy in Gaza last week, killing three American guards, had led to expectations that the United States would scale back its involvement. *AP*

TWO sisters of a Hamas member weep at their brother's funeral in Gaza City. EPA

EU's Big Three warn Iran on nukes

TEHRAN—Britain, France and Germany told Iran on Tuesday to show "full transparency" over its suspect nuclear program, warning of a "serious problem" if their foreign ministers ended their unprecedented visit to Tehran without a deal on the crisis.

But the signs were that the dramatic convergence on the Iranian capital by the European Union's "Big Three" would secure Iran's cooperation with the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, with Iran's top diplomat Kamal Kharazi saying the Islamic republic was ready to ease international alarm.

"We share the worries of the international community," French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin told reporters here after he and his British and French counterparts met with Kharazi.

"We would like to have full transparency," he added, saying he was "optimistic" Iran would comply with an International Atomic Energy Agency resolution that leaves the country 10 days to prove it is not developing nuclear weapons.

But describing the visit as "a crucial moment," Germany's Joschka Fischer warned: "If we can agree today it would be a step forward, if not we have a very serious problem."

Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said that while the three "all respect the right of any nation to have a civilian nuclear program," they would not accept Iran being "involved in any kind of proliferation activity."

Iran's Foreign Minister Kharazi then stepped in to promise "total transparency", and asserted the clerical regime—lumped into an "axis of evil" by the United States—"is not pursuing any illegal activity."

"I emphasized the transparency of our activities, both in the past and in the future. We are ready for full transparency," Kharazi said after he met the three foreign ministers in Saadabad palace, a leafy former imperial complex in the north of the capital now used by the Islamic regime to receive foreign dignitaries. *AFP*

4 other suspects in Bali blast face trial

BALI, Indonesia—Prosecutors on Tuesday filed charges against four of the last five suspects jailed after the terrorist attacks on Bali island—the worst terror attack since Sept. 11, 2001.

The four—Sarjiyo, Suranto Abdul Goni, Ahmad Roichan, and Hafidin—are accused of violating antiterror laws, said I Nengah Sarwa, chief of the Denpasar District Court.

Sarijiyo and Suranto could face a maximum sentence of death for helping plan the Oct. 12, 2002 attack which killed 202 people and assembling the explosives used to blow up two packed nightclubs.

Roichan and Hafidin face 20 years in jail for allegedly helping move funds used in the attack and finding accommodation for the bombers.

"Today, we received the dossiers of the four," Sarwa said. "They should be brought to trial in the next 10 days."

So far, all 29 defendants tried in the case have been convicted. Three were sentenced to death and two to life imprisonment for orchestrating the bombings.

Others received prison terms ranging from three and 16 years for sheltering accomplices, hosting planning meetings and helping finance the attack.

The blasts forced Indonesia to confront terrorism in the archipelago and severely damaged Bali's tourism-dependent economy.

US President George W. Bush will meet President Megawati Sukarnoputri today in Bali and the issue of terrorism is expected to dominate their discussions.

Authorities have blamed the al-Qaida-linked terror group Jemaah Islamiyah for the Bali attack as well as the Aug. 5 bombing of the J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta that killed 12 people. *AP*

Gov't inquiry into Diana's death sought

LONDON—A letter reportedly written by Princess Diana about fears that someone planned to tamper with the brakes of her car brought the painful story of her death back to the front pages on Monday and prompted a call for a public inquiry.

The Daily Mirror tabloid said the letter it published was written to Diana's butler Paul Burrell in October 1996—some 11 months before the Paris car crash that killed the princess, her companion Dodi Fayed and the car's driver, Henri Paul.

It was included in excerpts from the forthcoming book, "A Royal Duty," by Burrell and quoted the princess as writing that "this particular phase in my life is the most dangerous."

She reportedly wrote to Burrell that someone was planning "an accident in my car, brake failure and serious head injury in order to make the path clear for Charles to marry."

The newspaper said Diana had named the person she believed was plotting against her but that it could not reveal the identity for fear of a lawsuit. It printed a photograph of part of the letter, with the name blacked out.

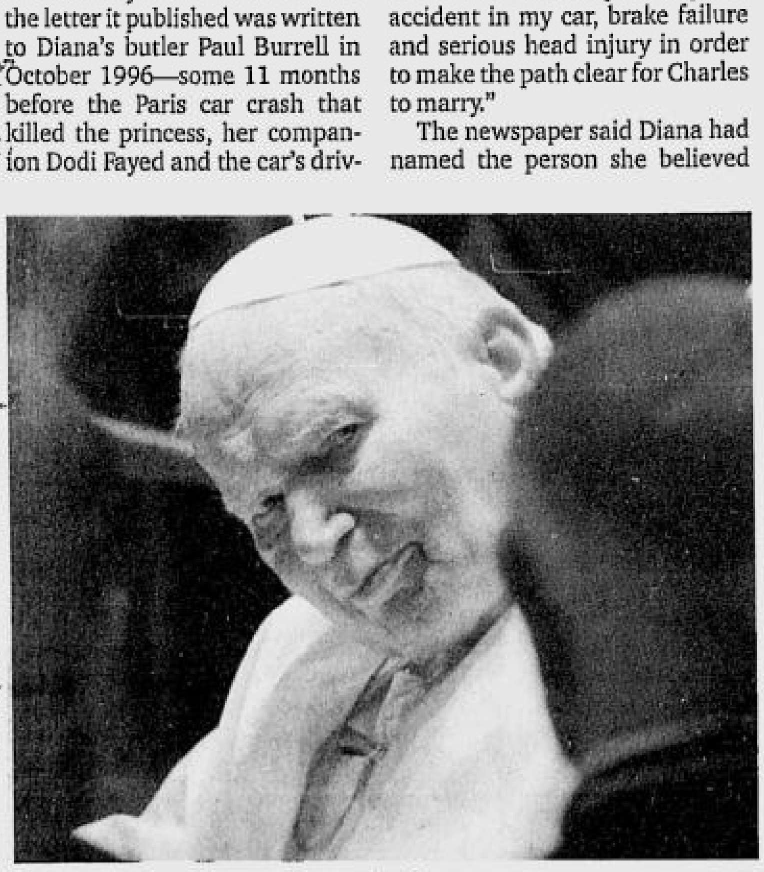
A French judge has ruled that the driver's use of drugs and alcohol, and the car's high speed, caused the accident on Aug. 31, 1997 inside a Paris road tunnel.

But Fayed's father, Mohammed al Fayed, has never accepted that verdict and insists the crash was not an accident, but the result of a plot to kill the couple.

Al Fayed, owner of Harrods department store, issued a statement Monday saying Burrell's revelation of the letter confirmed "the suspicions I have so often voiced in public and which have thus far been ignored."

He called on Prime Minister Tony Blair to hold a full and independent public inquiry or stand accused of colluding in a cover-up.

Al Fayed also criticized Burrell for keeping the letter to himself for so long. *AP*


POPE John Paul II greets new cardinals. REUTERS

Ailing Pope installs 30 new cardinals

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II is adding 30 men to the list of his possible successors, installing a diverse collection of cardinals in a ceremony seen as a dress rehearsal for a conclave to choose a new leader.

In a ritual-filled ceremony Tuesday, the ailing 83-year-old Pope gave the new "princes of the Church" their red hats and declared them members of the elite band of churchmen who will elect the next Pope.

"We don't know whether that will be in one month or five years," said Scottish Archbishop Keith O'Brien, one of the new cardinals. "But that's really the priority for cardinals."

The Pope's increasing frailty, on display during a rigorous week of ceremonies surrounding his 25th anniversary, has added poignancy to Tuesday's consistory, which some Vatican observers say may be his last.

The roster of cardinals is considered to be the list of possible popes, since cardinals largely choose from among themselves for the top job in the Roman Catholic Church.

Tuesday's ceremony will bring to 194 the members of the College of Cardinals, although only 135 of them are under age 80 and thus eligible to vote in a conclave. Of those 135, John Paul named all but five. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

UN tribunal indicts 4 Serb generals

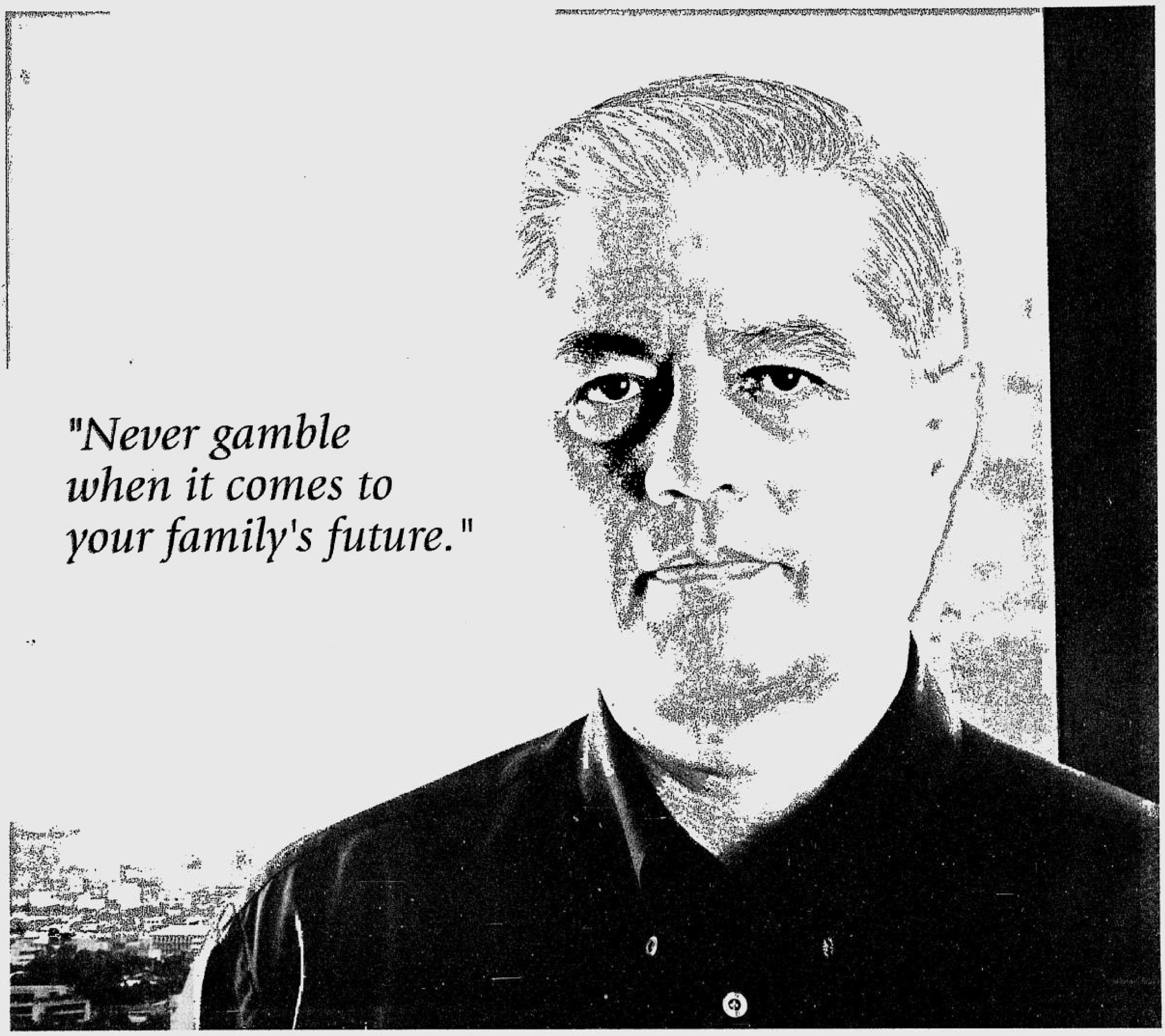
AMSTERDAM, Netherlands—The Yugoslav war crimes tribunal on Monday indicted four Serbian generals, including the current assistant interior minister in Serbia and Montenegro, for alleged atrocities against thousands of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. The indictment, confirmed by a UN judge last week but released Monday, accuses the men of five counts of war crimes, including murder, persecution, deportation and inhumane treatment during the Serbian crackdown on ethnic Albanians in 1998 and 1999 to quell their independence movement in the southern province. *AP*

New Bolivia president calls for patience

LA PAZ, Bolivia—Bolivia's new president urged the nation's Indians to be patient, pledging to fulfill many of their demands if they give him time to address the problems facing the country after weeks of fierce demonstrations. President Carlos Mesa addressed tens of thousands of Indians, mainly laborers and peasants, in a La Paz plaza who had marched from nearby El Alto, the epicenter of weeks of rioting that killed at least 65 people and forced the resignation of the former president, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada. "Please give me time, give me space," Mesa said Monday, wearing a gray suit that stood out in a sea of colorful ponchos and traditional woolen caps. "Let's show the world that we know how to construct peace." *AP*

Child soldiers put war behind them

MONROVIA, Liberia —In his dream, 14-year-old Moses Watson is running from the front lines in Liberia when a bullet hits him in the guts. "All my intestines come out," said Moses, his voice quiet as he sat on a wooden bench, looking at the floor. "I have died. I ask God please forgive me." Moses, like thousands of child soldiers here, is haunted by what he did and saw during the years when grown government soldiers doped him up with marijuana and crack cocaine and forced him into battle holding a machine gun that dwarfed his body. And he doesn't know what will become of him next. The United Nations says as many as 10,000 children fought in this West African country's last, 3-year civil war, a closing burst of carnage in 14 years of conflict that killed more than 200,000 people. Liberians are looking ahead toward patching their country back together now that warlord-turned-President Charles Taylor is exiled in Nigeria. And child soldiers are but one item on a long list of things to fix. School—restarting Nov. 3, as soon as classrooms that housed refugees are stocked with pencils and paper and cleansed of blood—will take in many of the youngest fighters. *AP*



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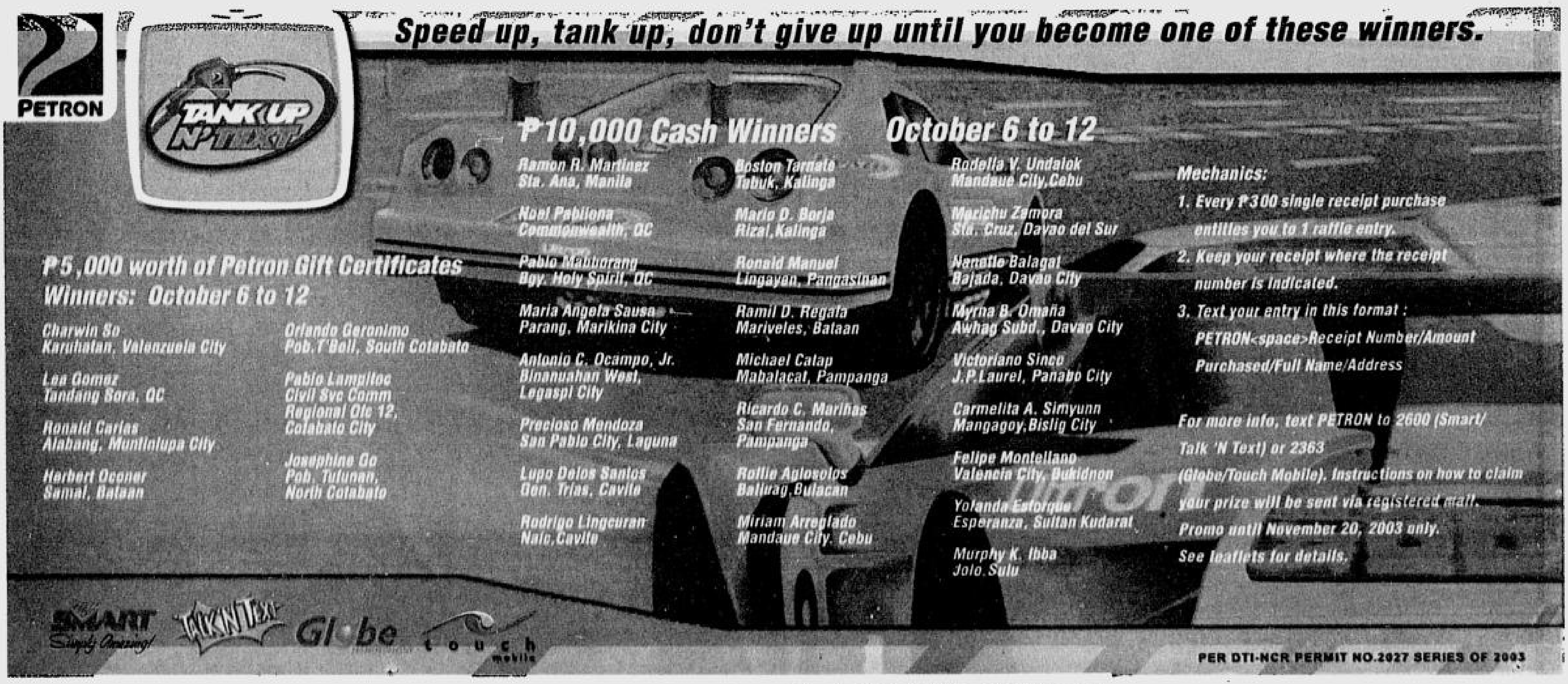

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Pressure on FPJ mounts

From page A1

sector groups came up, he had to listen. So that is the reason he is thinking about it," said Sotto. He described his talks with Poe as "advanced."

Good to hear

Legarda said the "political blockbuster" was coined by ranking political leaders during one of her provincial sorties. "In my rounds in the rural areas, especially in Mindanao, political leaders are urging me (to run with Poe), and they think it is a 'political blockbuster.'"

She said her possible team up with the movie king, which is being floated by the opposition camp, could be a "box-office hit."

Asked if she subscribed to this assertion, she said: "That's what the political leaders say. But as I said, 'I have not yet made any definite decision or plans yet.'"

But Legarda, who bolted the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats on Oct. 2 to become "independent," admitted that this report was "good to hear, and that will be inputted when I make my final decision, which will be in due time."

In the meantime, "I will continue with my consultations with my political leaders and my supporters. I will decide on which position to run for (and with whom) depending on my consultation, and in what position I will be most effective in serving our people," she said.

Legarda resigned from the ruling Lakas-CMD when it was clear that President Macapagal-Arroyo was running for president. A team-up between two women is generally regarded as untenable.

Mum

Poe has arrived from a vacation in the United States last week but he remains mum on reports that he will announce his candidacy tomorrow, said Ronald Constantino, a publicist of the action star.

INQUIRER learned about Poe's arrival from the United States in a phone interview with Poe's househelp. "He's in Manila but he's not at home right now," the househelp said in Filipino.

LEGARDA: Top opposition pick for vice president. JESS YUSON

Sotto said Poe was considering everything, including his family, in deciding whether to run or not. "Susan (Roces, Poe's wife) is against it but she will not object in case (he decides to run for president)," Sotto said.

"Politics is dirty," Sotto quoted Susan Roces as saying.

Even Poe's family abroad is against his running for the presidency, according to Sotto.

He said that as early as August 2002, "well-meaning friends" and other people had asked Poe to run in the 2004 polls. But Sotto said Poe turned down the proposal even when Estrada had asked him.

Estrada said he had no knowledge about Poe's alleged intention to announce his political plans tomorrow. But while claiming that he had not talked with Poe lately, Estrada said: "But he might run. There's a big possibility he's going to run."

All he knew right now, Estrada said, was that the pro-FPJ groups would stage an event at the Cuneta Astrodome in the near future.

The secretary general of the FPJ (Freedom, Peace and Justice) Movement, Jules Rabocca, also denied any knowledge of Poe's scheduled declaration this Thursday.

Rabocca said if such an announcement would indeed be made "it will be within the near future, maybe within the month because there are many other things to consider."

Clarify Poe's citizenship

An opposition stalwart cautioned his colleagues against "making hasty and uninformed decision" on the move to draft Poe as the opposition's standard-bearer next year.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. reminded his colleagues to check first the nationality of Poe. "I understand that Fernando Poe Jr., who is already a strong contender for the presidency under the banner of the opposition, suffers from some constitutional problem for the reason that I am told that he is a US citizen."

Pimentel said Poe should clarify the real status of his citizenship "once and for all so that we are not unnecessarily brought into a situation where he can conceivably be declared standard-bearer of the opposition, and yet turned out later to be disqualified."

Pimentel, a constitutionalist, reminded his colleagues that the Constitution explicitly required a Philippine president to be "natural-born" Filipino, or born to Filipino parents. He admitted that this provision was patterned after the US Constitution.

The senator explained that even under the newly enacted Dual Citizenship Law, Poe—if he was born an American citizen—could not circumvent the Constitution.

Team to beat

Angara-Castillo said the Poe-Legarda tandem was expected to easily beat Ms Macapagal and her running mate. Ms Macapagal announced on Oct. 4 that she would stand for election.

She said Ms Macapagal may team up with Sen. Noli de Castro, who like Legarda was a broadcaster of ABS-CBN.

Asked if businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. would support Poe, Angara-Castillo said: "He is likely supporting FPJ."

Cojuangco, founder of the Nationalist People's Coalition, is the chair and chief executive of the food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. Poe used to endorse the company's flagship product, San Miguel Beer.

Earlier, NPC president emeritus Ernesto Maceda said Cojuangco had been talking to Poe and that the latter had not closed the door to the possibility of running for president.

Full slate

Angara told reporters that on or before Nov. 15 "we will announce our full slate, a complete slate, president and vice president, whoever is chosen by the unified opposition."

He said the opposition would also announce its program of government "which will be in sharp contrast to the failed program of this administration, which has only succeeded in making the Philippines the third most corrupt country."

He said that there would only be one presidential candidate for the opposition because the current aspirants knew the need to field only one to attain victory. Aside from Poe, the opposition is considering Cojuangco, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

Angara said he was confident that Lacson would abide with his earlier pronouncement that he would only run for president if the united opposition chose him to be its standard bearer.

Even so, Lacson said he was confident he would be chosen by the united opposition.

"I may not be the choice of some members and leaders of the opposition, but I am quite confident that the other officials of my party, the LDP, and other leaders of parties aligned with the opposition will choose me as the standard bearer," Lacson told reporters.

Asked who is the "united opposition" for him, Lacson mentioned the LDP and the Partido ng Masang Pilipino as among its members. *With reports from Marinel R. Cruz and Volt Contreras*

Jose Pidal controversy splits Senate ranks

From page A1

the Jose Pidal account where laundered money is being stashed.

Clear majority

Likewise, Senator Arroyo said his ruling on the right to privacy issue had been supported by 10 of his 19 members, a clear majority.

The 10 were himself and Senators Flavier, Robert Barbers, Ramon Revilla, Noli de Castro, Francis Pangilinan, Ralph Recto, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Robert Jaworski, and Manuel Villar Jr.

Asked on Angara's proposal for the three committees to meet and take a vote on the issue, Senator Arroyo said the rules in the Senate did not provide for this.

"I have strictly adhered to the rules. The subsidiary committees are the ones making the new rules, and I stick to the rule," he told reporters.

Arroyo said it was about time there should be "some sense" in the joint hearing.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, chair of the committee on banks, supported Angara's call for the holding of a caucus of the members of the three committees. He said he would push for a voting on the right to privacy issue.

"I think this will eventually end up with the caucus resolving the rules and the issues surrounding the rules and the right to privacy," Osmeña told reporters.

In his committee's resolution, Angara said the right to privacy was constitutionally recognized but it was not absolute.

Legislative inquiry "is one of the most common and acceptable forms of encroachment into the right to privacy," he added.

The committee said the Jose Pidal controversy was a matter "invested with paramount public interest" because it involved allegations against the spouse of the "highest and most powerful person in the country."

"And since Ignacio Arroyo has voluntarily admitted owning the Jose Pidal accounts, then he necessarily falls within the domain of the Senate investigation," the resolution said.

In a letter to Senator Arroyo, Angara said the Senate inquiry into Lacson's allegations should continue because the pieces of evidence provided by Lacson "adequately satisfy the requirement for a prima facie case to support, justify and sustain the ongoing Senate investigation on the matter."

Conjoined Filipino twins hurdle first of 4 operations

From page A1

are still joined and will be given a couple of weeks to heal and adapt before the next operation.

CHAM and the Blythedale Children's Hospital, also in New York, where the twins are to undergo post-operation physical therapy, have agreed to take the extremely difficult and high-risk case for free, the statement said.

It also said both boys were expressing an "eagerness to be on their feet," judging from the way they were pushing their feet against the hands of their caregivers.

Because of their condition, neither of the twins has ever been able to sit up or stand.

Dr. Ceres Baldivia Guy, the pediatrician from Negros who had earlier sought help for the twins, said their mother, Arlene, also told her in a long-distance phone call that the operation was a success and that the boys were fully awake.

Guy has been keeping close tabs on the progress of the twins and is planning to go to New York to join the team attending to them.

Arlene, a nurse from Silay City, is a single parent. She is currently unemployed while she is seeking medical help for her children.

Msgr. Victorino Rivas, vicar general of the Diocese of Bacolod, yesterday called for prayers for the twins. "Let us pray that the boys can be separated so they can live normal lives," he said.

Goodrich said the first part of the separation began Monday with a craniotomy, essentially a removal of a small section of the skull and exposing the upper surface of each boy's head.

"We were mainly looking at crossover between the blood vessels," said Goodrich, who led a team of 20 in the five-and-a-half-hour operation. "We did not find much, and that's a very good sign. The preoperative planning was very good. There were no surprises."

After the bone was put back in place and secured with tiny titanium plates and screws, Dr. David Staffenberg, chief of the hospital's pediatric plastic surgery division, placed two tissue expanders under the boys' scalp.

"We put the expanders in positions where Carl and Clarence can still lie comfortably on their backs when we begin to expand and stretch the skin in preparation for the next stages," Staffenberg said.

The tissue expanders—small pouches that will slowly be filled with saline—will gradually stretch the skin and encourage new skin growth, the CHAM statement said. Eventually, the expanded skin will be used to reconstruct the scalp in each tw after the final separation surgery.

Goodrich said the timing of the next in the series of operations would depend on how quickly the twins recovered from Monday's procedure.

The final and most difficult surgery, expected to take place before the end of the year, will involve the sagittal sinus, a major vein that drains blood from the brain to the heart.

The boys have only one, and the doctors plan to assign it to one twin and reroute other veins to replace it in his brother.

The doctors had viewed three-dimensional models, video simulations and scores of MRI scans, but the skull opening Monday gave them their first real look at the area.

The twins have gained five pounds since arriving in the United States from the Philippines on Sept. 10, the CHAM doctors earlier reported.

Clarence, the smaller of the two, is being successfully treated for hypertension. Their dental decay was also treated, reducing chances of post-surgical infection.

Through physical and occupational therapy, the twins' muscles are stronger and their eye-hand motor reflexes have improved, according to an earlier CHAM statement.

The boys have very different personalities, the statement said. Carl, the larger twin, is more of the "philosopher," while Clarence is more active and flips his brother over at will. *With an AP report*

Egyptian twins doing fine

DALLAS—A week after a 34-hour operation in which neurosurgeons separated the intricate connection of blood vessels running between the brains of conjoined Egyptian twins, doctors say they are pleased with the boys' progress.

Mohamed Ibrahim, 2, was taken off a ventilator and was breathing on his own Sunday afternoon, and doctors hoped to do the same with his brother Ahmed as early as Monday.

The twins, joined at the top of their heads when they were born in Egypt on June 2, 2001, were separated Oct. 12.

Dr. James Thomas, chief of critical care services at the Children's Medica[illegible]er Dallas, said in an update released by the hospital that he was cautiously optimistic that doctors would not have to put Mohamed back on a ventilator.

The twins were listed early Monday in critical but stable condition.

"Once each twin is breathing on his own without respiratory distress, his condition may be upgraded from critical to guarded," Thomas said.

The hospital said the twins were showing more motion in their arms and legs and improved response to verbal cues from the family and medical team.

"The neurosurgical and medical teams are very pleased with the twins' progress so far," Thomas said. *AP*

Erap key to INC nod for GMA's 2004 bid

From page A1

Defensor said Ms Macapagal had been open to the house arrest option, but the matter was already out of the President's hands.

"The problem with Estrada is that you cannot have a presidential decision. His fate is for the judiciary to decide," Defensor said.

Defensor also backed Estrada's request to visit his ailing mother in his San Juan residence.

"I think (it should be granted) for humanitarian purposes," Defensor said.

From Bangkok, where she was attending the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Conference summit, Ms Macapagal issued a statement which could be viewed as signaling more cordial relations with the Estrada camp.

She said her administration would respect and carry out the Sandiganbayan's decision regarding Estrada's request for a transfer.

"We are concerned as any humanely inclined person about the health condition of the former president. But the disposition of detention-related issues is properly left to his doctors and the court," the President said in a statement.

No deal

But Estrada yesterday denied that his transfer to Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, on Thursday was part of a "deal" with the Macapagal administration.

"There is no deal," Estrada's spokesperson, Raymund Fortun, said in a press statement.

Estrada's media coordinator, Ferdie Ramos, also reported that the ex-President was "hurting" from speculations about the alleged deal with the Palace.

According to Ramos, Estrada told him: "I would rather rot in jail than make a deal with an illegitimate government."

But the government official who requested anonymity said Estrada actually wanted an assurance from Ms Macapagal that she would not interfere in his plunder trial.

A Palace official confirmed there were talks to get the INC's support for Ms Macapagal but denied that the talks included a deal involving Estrada.

"I think some people are talking (with the INC) but I'm not privy to that," Conrado Limcaoco, presidential adviser on media and religious affairs, said.

Limcaoco declined to comment on the issue of Estrada's house arrest, saying Malacañang has stated its position that this is an issue best left to the Sandiganbayan.

No house arrest

Even state prosecutors in Estrada's plunder trial are amenable to giving the ex-President a "24-hour pass" to visit his 98-year-old mother.

"If they will really make a formal request, I don't see any reason why it can't be accommodated," said Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio.

Children being called to the bedside by their aging parents "is part of Filipino culture," Villa-Ignacio told the INQUIRER.

The government lawyer, however, said the prosecution will strongly oppose placing Estrada under "temporary house arrest." Estrada has asked that he stay in his Polk Street residence for several days.

The special Sandiganbayan division had already denied Estrada's request for house arrest in June 2001 as well as the appeal in February.

Told of Villa-Ignacio's position, Estrada de officio counsel Noel Malaya said that, offhand, he found the 24-hour pass "too short."

He said the distance between Tanay and Metro Manila should also be considered. Malaya said he and other defense lawyers included Estrada's mother's medical report as part of their pleading.

Fortun wryly said: "Thank you. It shows that the prosecutors have a heart all along, because we initially thought they had none."

No emissary

Defensor denied he had been sent anew as Ms Macapagal's emissary to the INC.

He said the President herself would talk with INC executive minister Erano G. Manalo at the proper time.

"In due time, she would be consulting with Ka Erdie and other religious leaders because that is part of her governance," Defensor said.

"It's just part of her continuing consultations because the President at times would seek the advice of Ka Erdie and other leaders like Brother Mike and Brother Eddie," Defensor said.

He was referring to El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde and Bro. Eddie Villanueva of the Jesus Is Lord movement, who are perceived to be friendly to Ms Macapagal.

"Ka Erdie would really be (helpful), his perspective and vision for unity and reconciliation is very enlightening," Defensor said.

He said Ms Macapagal appreciated the INC's position during the Oakwood mutiny when some pro-Estrada personalities were implicated.

"The INC had always been clear on its doctrine against violence and the President values the word of Ka Erdie. As for the elections, we leave it to the Iglesia ni Cristo to make the decision," Defensor said.

He expressed confidence that the INC would judge Ms Macapagal on the basis of her track record.

Defensor said no "special operation" would be made by the President's camp to clinch the INC vote. But he said that in the past, candidates make courtesy calls on or write letters to the INC asking for support.

"The Iglesia ni Cristo is known to decide a few days before the election and they conduct consultations down to the grassroots," Defensor said.

He said the INC is a "substantial" force in elections because the group is known to vote as one. Defensor noted that nearly all the senators who were endorsed by the INC won.

Defensor, who once served as representative of the Quezon City district where the INC main temple is located, said the INC vote could "spell your victory or defeat" in local elections.

No transfer

In Camp Crame, Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane said it was unlikely that Estrada's request to be transferred to his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, would be granted.

"What they are saying is unlikely. It just so happens his rest house and the detention center are near each other," Ebdane said in Filipino.

The PNP chief went to the Western Police District Headquarters yesterday morning to commend its members for their role in securing US President George W. Bush.

Ebdane said it was the police who decided to transfer Estrada to Camp Capinpin, but it would be the Sandiganbayan who would make the final decision on the matter.

"But the police would not recommend it," he told reporters.

Ebdane also said yesterday that the military was also helping secure Estrada, including manning the checkpoints set up in key areas around his detention quarters.

The PNP chief added that it was the PNP's prerogative to move Estrada to another detention center if they felt he was not safe in his present quarters. The police could do this, he said, as long as it informs the Sandiganbayan of the transfer an hour earlier. *With reports from Clarissa Batino at the Apec summit in Bangkok; and Leila B. Salaverria*

Thai paper features glowing analysis on RP recovery

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BANGKOK—If there's a spring in President Macapagal-Arroyo's step at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in this Thai capital, here's one reason why.

On a day newspaper headlines featured US President George W. Bush chastising Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad for his controversial remarks about Jews, Bangkok's leading independent English-language daily featured a glowing analysis on the recovery of the Philippines

"A new sense of confidence stemming from political stability has given the Philippines credibility in the international community after years of standing on shaky ground following the ouster of the late President Ferdinand Marcos," said The Nation, adding that the Philippines was now "walking taller on (the) world stage."

"Domestically, President Gloria (Macapagal) Arroyo won considerable respect from the military and security agencies with her firm handling of the abortive military coup last July, and her popularity with the citizens soared. This may have led to her recent decision to seek a second presidential term," it said.

The analysis drew mostly on an interview with Foreign Secretary Blas Ople.

Thai papers had featured Ople for spearheading the call of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to use the Apec summit to demand that the Burmese junta release opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Barge procession

On Monday night, Ms Macapagal was in a resplendent green terno at the Chakri Maha Prasat Throne Hall during the royal reception and the viewing of the Royal Barge Procession.

Ms Macapagal, together with the 20 other Apec leaders, had the best seat for the barge procession, which started at 9 p.m. The procession, a pageant of light and shadow, was held only for the fifth time in recent memory.

Residents of Bangkok lined up the Chao Phya River as early as 1 p.m. and paid up to 2,500 baht to get good seats.

Dry ice and partly submerged lights were placed on the Chao Phya River to create a mythical effect for the parade, which featured 50 ornate barges rowed by 2,082 Royal Thai Navy oarsmen in glittering period costume. Lighted lanterns buoyed with helium soared in the sky.

Bangkok residents had to line up the riverbanks to catch the procession even as restaurants along the Soi Wat Rakhang, which is just opposite the area where the Apec leaders were watching, were charging as much 2,500 baht for the privilege of watching the seldom-seen event.

Mahathir assures RP on peace talks with Moro rebs

BANGKOK—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has assured the Philippines that his country will continue to broker peace talks between Manila and Muslim guerrillas even after his retirement at the end of the month, President Macapagal Arroyo said yesterday.

In talks on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Bangkok, Mahathir assured Ms Macapagal that his successor would continue the peace process between Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"We talked about the continuity of the peace process," the President told reporters. "He said his successor shares his views and it will probably be the same people on the ground who will be assisting us."

Malaysian-brokered talks have led to a ceasefire, but intermittent fighting have scuttled past negotiations. Formal talks were expected to resume in Malaysia in the next few weeks, government officials have said.

Aside from hosting the talks, Malaysia has also pledged to send Malaysian peacekeepers to help prevent any prolonged clashes that could break the cease-fire and endanger the talks.

Ms Macapagal said Mahathir has even promised to help bolster the talks in retirement and may have more time to do so after he steps down from power Oct. 31 after leading his predominantly Muslim country for more than 22 years.

Mahathir has named successor Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as his successor. *AP*

Apec vows to dismantle all terror groups

From page A1

man-portable air-defense systems, which Washington fears terrorists could use to shoot down civilian airliners.

The Apec leaders pledged to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction "by strengthening international non-proliferation regimes, adopting and enforcing effective export controls, and taking other legitimate and appropriate measures against proliferation."

Wearing vibrant Thai silk shirts, the leaders stood side by side as Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra pressed home the need to work for a stable Korean peninsula.

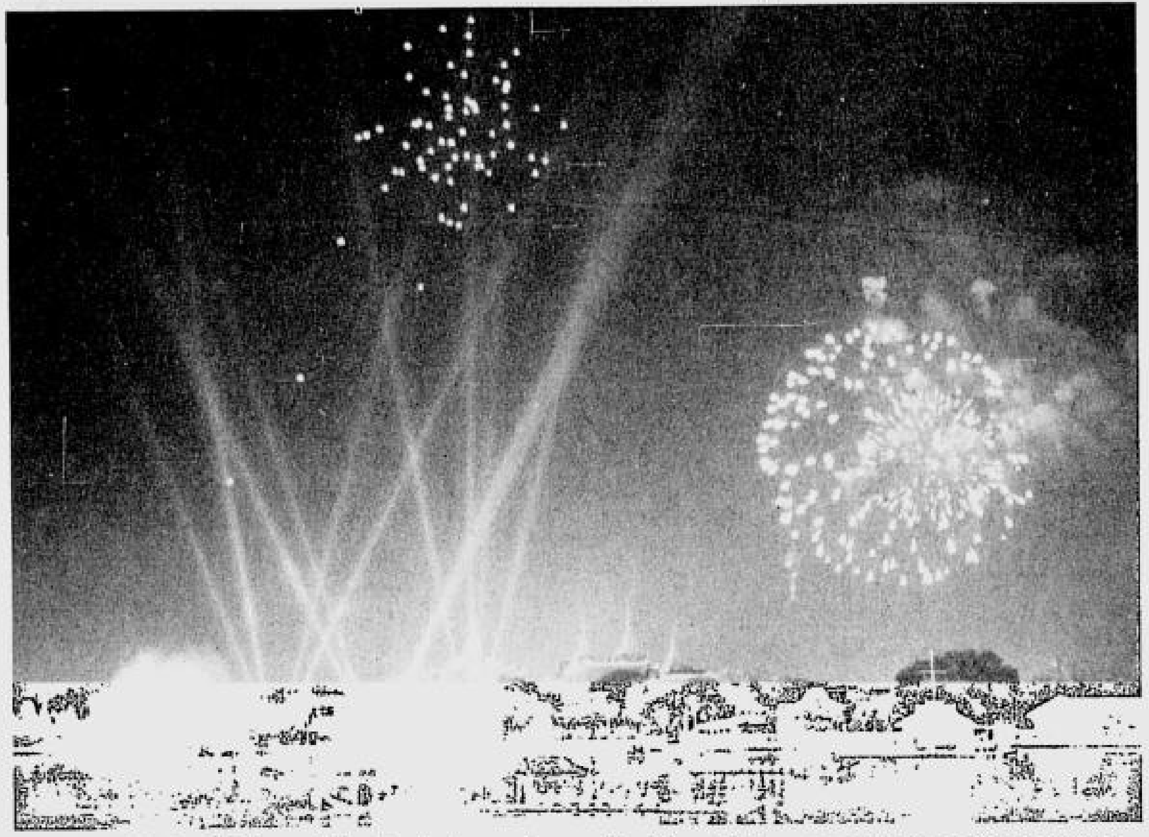
"We seek a peaceful resolution through dialogue while addressing all the concerns of the parties including the security concerns raised by the DPRK (North Korea)," said Thaksin.

"We are committed to the maintenance of peace and stability on the peninsula and support continuation of the six-party talks and look forward to concrete and verifiable progress toward a complete and permanent nuclear weapons-free Korean peninsula."

Despite a US push for an official condemnation of North Korea, the leaders' document did not include a joint call for North Korea to disarm, Nor was there a separate statement on the issue as Japan had wanted.

Bush, who left for Singapore on Tuesday on the next leg of his Asian tour, has ruled out giving Pyongyang the non-aggression treaty it demands but said he was exploring ways to provide written security assurances backed by Washington's partners in the six-way talks—South Korea, China, Japan and Russia.

Bush and other top officials used the summit to sound out Washington's dialogue partners on the new initiative with its urgency highlighted by the firing of a North Korean short-range missile on Monday.



FIREWORKS, laser lights and floating lanterns rise over the Grand Palace as royal barges glide down the Chao Phraya River in Bangkok Monday. Thai authorities put on a dazzling display for the Apec summit meeting hosted by Thailand. EPA

Trade issues

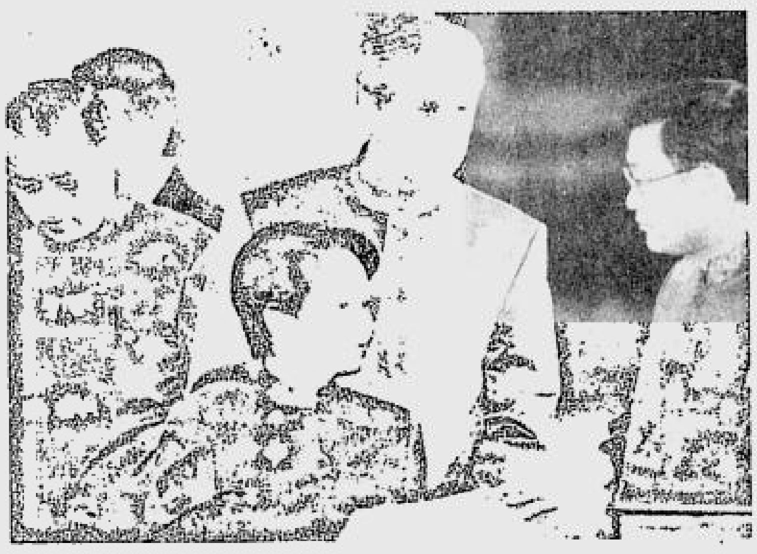
While the summit was overshadowed by security issues, to the ire of some leaders led by Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad, the world's power brokers agreed to throw their support behind the multilateral trade negotiation process which foundered in Cancun last month.

"We agreed to re-energize the negotiation process . . . recognizing that flexibility and political will are urgently needed to move the negotiations toward a successful conclusion," the Apec leaders said in the joint declaration.

The powerful grouping also vowed to push for an "ambitious and balanced outcome" of the Doha round of negotiations which faltered in Mexico amid disputes over agricultural subsidies by rich nations.

"We agreed to work toward the abolition of all forms of agricultural export subsidies, unjustifiable export prohibitions and restrictions," they said.

The leaders reaffirmed the "primacy" of the multilateral trading system and agreed that the Doha round of talks under the World Trade Organization was vital for member nations' prosperity.



THAI Prime Minister Thaksin speaks to Philippine President Macapagal as US President Bush listens prior to the joint declaration of the Apec Summit meeting in Bangkok on Tuesday. At left is Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir. AP

Even so, they did not offer a formula to break the impasse but directed negotiators to go back to work on the text they had left behind.

Mahathir

Despite the long list of important economic and security issues, the summit which in past years has been hijacked by political issues, was again distracted by diplomatic spats.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who complained that a preoccupation with security topics was diluting Apec's core mission of economic reform, continued to stir up controversy by repeating his charge that Jews control the world—something that has been condemned by Bush and others.

Bush pulled Mahathir at an Apec session on Monday night to say the Malaysian leader's remarks were "wrong and divisive," a White House spokesman said.

But Mahathir, who retires at month's end after 22 years as the leader of mainly Muslim Malaysia, said the global reaction "shows that (Jews) do control the world," the Bangkok Post on Tuesday quoted him as saying.

"Israel is a small country. There are not many Jews in the world. But they are so arrogant that they defy the whole world. Even if the United Nations say no, they go ahead. Why? Because they have the backing of all these people," said Mahathir, who often makes acerbic speeches against globalization and US policy in the Middle East.

Mahathir said in the Bangkok Post interview that his remarks before the Organization of the Islamic Conference about Jews had been taken out of context, noting that in his speech he had urged Israelis and Arabs to stop killing one another.

"In my speech I condemned all violence, even the suicide bombings and I told the Muslims it's about time we stopped all these things and paused to think and do something that is much more productive," he said. "That was the whole tone of my speech, but they picked up one sentence where I said that the Jews control the world."

The Apec members are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, United States and Vietnam. *Reports from AFP and AP*

21 Apec leaders wear $2,200 Thai silk shirts

From page A1

each, although one domestic newspaper said each cost a whopping 110,000 baht ($2,760)—or nearly $500 more than the average Thai earns in a year.

It took one month for five people working on a loom to produce three meters of the special fabric. It would take much, much longer for the average person in one of the Asia-Pacific economies to get one for themselves.

With Thailand's average annual income amounting to the equivalent of $1,960, most Thais couldn't buy one even if they worked for an entire year and saved every penny. It's about the same situation for Filipinos, Chinese, Russians and Peruvians, also citizens of Asia-Pacific economies.

Others would have to put in an even greater investment to get the shirt.

A typical Indonesian would have to work more than three years. A citizen of Papua New Guinea would have to work more than four, and a Vietnamese, who earns about $35 a month, would have to work more than five.

The richest citizens of Apec nations—the Americans and Japanese—would have to work for more than three weeks.

Not for commoners

The gold-weave shirts are part of the tradition at the annual Apec summits, at which leaders have appeared in everything from Canadian bomber jackets to Filipino *barong*, Indonesian batik, Mexican home-spun and Chinese brocade.

But these shirts are not usually allowed to commoners in Thailand.

"This type of silk cloth is usually worn by members of the royal family or aristocrats, who are given it by the king," said royal tailor Prapab Louisprasert. "Common people like us have no right to wear it."

About 200 villagers in northeastern Surin province took seven months to laboriously weave the extremely fine silk, which was then transformed into shirts by independent designer Weeratham Trakulngernthai.

Master tailor Sompop Louilarpprasert said he oversaw five tailors working for 15 days to sew the shirts, each of which used around three meters of silk.

"They were finished only two or three days ago," he said, adding that a few required final alterations once the leaders arrived to try them on.

The shirts featured a mixture of animals, including lions and elephants to represent power, and swans and peacocks to represent elegance. Leaders from Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei wore outfits imprinted with flowers, in keeping with Islamic rules.

Guarded secret

The host country's presentation to the leaders of shirts reflective of its culture ahead of the final day of talks is typically a closely guarded secret until the group photograph takes place.

A few of the Apec leaders walked a bit stiffly, but most of them appeared chipper and relaxed in their shirts as they arrived at the throne hall.

"Oh yes, I'm very happy with it," Australian Prime Minister John Howard was overheard saying as he chatted with other leaders at the throne hall.

US President George W. Bush held up an arm to compare his shirt with that of another leader. Twice more he looked at the sleeves as he chatted about the shirt.

But somebody apparently forgot to tell Russian President Vladimir Putin that you're supposed to button the shirt all the way to the neck. He forgot the top button, so looked a bit brash and rumpled as he sauntered up the red-carpeted steps of the hall.

Thais who watched the spectacle on television pointed and laughed.

Renaissance-style

This year's picture was snapped inside the historic and opulent Throne Hall, which is constructed of exquisite Italian marble and features airy domes, arched windows and elaborate gilding.

The leaders also held their second and final retreat session here, with a computer monitor set up in front of each one adding a high-tech touch to the 87-year-old hall, reputed to be Southeast Asia's only Italian Renaissance-style building.

The retreat marks the first time that the hall has been opened for an event since Thaksin's government was sworn into power by King Bhumibol Adulyadej in 2001.

It is a highly symbolic place for the reception of international leaders, with finely wrought murals inside displaying Thailand's embrace with the outside world last century. *Reports from Inquirer wires*

Palace usec grounded over leak in the clouds

From page A1

is now in danger of losing his job.

Nazareno, a veteran INQUIRER reporter before he joined Malacañang, may be transferred to the Office of Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Hernani Braganza, Press Secretary Milton Alingod said yesterday.

Alingod denied that Nazareno was fired because of a drunken incident on board a chartered plane carrying President Macapagal-Arroyo and her delegation from Paris three weeks ago.

"No. Secretary Braganza requested last week that he (Nazareno) be detailed in his office. But there is no decision yet," Alingod said.

Nazareno, undersecretary for operations of the Office of the Press Secretary, reportedly urinated on an emergency exit of the President's Philippine Airlines flight.

Alingod said Braganza's request was addressed to the President, who has not yet acted on it.

Without going into specifics, Nazareno owned up to his mistake.

"It was one weak moment I'm sorry for," said Nazareno, who is celebrating his birthday today.

But he lamented that some people were making a big fuss over the incident. "I'm sad that this would even bring shame to Ma'am (Ms Macapagal)."

No sanctions

Alingod said he did not feel the need to impose sanctions on Nazareno.

"I didn't take any action, he continued doing his work. In fact, I assigned him as coordinator for the visit of (US) President (George W.) Bush," Alingod told the INQUIRER.

But he said Nazareno went on leave when a radio station made a blind-item report on the incident.

Alingod confirmed that the Paris incident was reported to him.

"The matter was brought to my attention by the protocol (staff) and I took it up with higher authorities," Alingod said.

Asked how the President reacted, Alingod replied: "We thought that he would be a good addition to the Office of Political Affairs. With his background as a reporter, he will be a good asset there."

A Palace source, who did not want to be named, said the President was not angry. "He's a good worker, maybe you can use him somewhere else," Ms Macapagal reportedly said.

From several sources, the INQUIRER pieced together how the Paris incident happened:

Nazareno had been drinking before he got to the plane (in Paris) and he continued to drink during the flight. Then he stood up, apparently to go to the toilet. Suddenly, he urinated right in front of the emergency exit door.

Some stewardesses and protocol officials, who were seated beside the exit door, were reportedly shocked, including Marciano Paynor, Philippine consul general to Los Angeles and presidential assistant on foreign visits.

3 solons urge gov't to open Terminal 3

By Cynthia Balana

THE three congressmen who were the original petitioners in a case filed with the Supreme Court seeking to stop the contract for the Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International airport yesterday urged the government to start operating the international facility despite moves by its contractor to prevent this.

Reps. Clavel Martinez of Cebu, Constantino Jaraulla of Cagayan de Oro City and Salacnib Baterina of Ilocos Norte said the government should not give in to the pressure of Philippine International Airport Terminal, Co. (Piatco) and its foreign partner, Fraport AG.

The two firms filed a case against the government before the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of International Disputes (ICSID).

In a joint press conference, Martinez and Jaraulla said the government should act in accordance with law and the Supreme Court decision declaring the Piatco contracts null and void.

Martinez pressed for the speedy opening of the Naia-3 which the Supreme Court had called on the government to do.

"This contention for arbitration outside the country is out of place," Martinez said. "We will stand pat on our ground that the contract was null and void as declared by no less than the Supreme Court."

Jaraulla said the ICSID cannot prevail upon the Supreme Court decision, and expressed the hope that the other party will not resort to technicalities to delay the operation of the terminal.

In their petition with the Supreme Court, the three congressmen pointed out that the Piatco contract had been amended on fundamental provisions no less than four times, making the present contract unrecognizable from the original contract approved by then President Fidel Ramos.

They also questioned the presence of a government guarantee on the contract and its supplements, the change in specifications of the terminal, and the financial incapacity of the consortium.

The High Court, voting 10-3, upheld the petitioners by declaring that all the Piatco contracts were contrary to public policy and violated the build-operate-and-transfer law.

It said the government should opt to take over the project because of the violations but it's obligated to pay "reasonable cost" for the use of the terminal and or terminal complex.

Piatco assails gov't anti-dummy threat

FORMER Solicitor General Frank Chavez, legal counsel of Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco), yesterday took issue with the claim of Assistant Solicitor General Magdangal de Leon that Piatco's German stockholder Fraport AG violated the Anti-Dummy Law by owning 61.44 percent of Piatco.

"The facts are very clear, even Fraport's request for arbitration was very clear," said Chavez in a press statement. "Fraport's 61.44 percent interest consists of direct and indirect participation in Piatco. Directly, Fraport owns only 30 percent, which is well within the limits prescribed by the Constitution and the Foreign Investments Act of 1991."

Piatco's other stockholders, he said, are SB Airport Investments, Paircargo, Pags, PTI and Nissho Iwai Corporation. The consortium was originally awarded the contract to build and operate Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport but the contract was later declared illegal by the Suprenme Court. Terminal 3 is now almost completed.

In its request for arbitration with the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) of the World Bank, Fraport said its "indirect investment in Piatco by means of interest in cascade companies allowed Fraport to make equity investments required by its agreements with its fellow project participants, all of which comply with Philippine laws requiring control of public utilities by Philippine nationals."

"It is comical how, by their own actions and declarations, Philippine government officials are practically admitting the veracity of Fraport's claims. Fraport has been in Piatco since 1999. Piatco's stockholder structure has been of public record for four years and it is only now that the government is crying 'foul.' That is a joke," Chavez said.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 22, 2003
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 6:12-18
Gospel: Lk 12:39-48

Jesus said to his disciples, "Pay attention to this: If the master of the house had known at what time the thief would come, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect."

Peter said, "Lord, did you tell this parable only for us, or for everyone?" And the Lord replied, "Imagine, then, the wise and faithful steward whom the master sets over his other servants to give them food rations at the proper time. Fortunate is this servant if his master on coming home finds him doing his work. Truly, I say to you, the master will put him in charge of all his property.

"But it may be that the steward thinks: 'My Lord delays in coming,' and he begins to abuse the men servants and the servant girls, eating and drinking and getting drunk. Then the master will come on a day he does not expect him and at an hour he doesn't know. He will discharge his servant and number him among the unreliable.

"The servant who knew his master's will, but did not prepare to do what his master wanted, will be punished with sound blows; but the one who did what deserved a punishment without knowing it shall receive fewer blows. Much will be required of the one who has been given much, and more will be asked of the one entrusted with more."

Commentary

"Fortunate is this servant … the master will put him in charge of all his property." The world of the master and servant is pretty well defined. The master is the owner of the household and holds power and authority over his household. The servant is the subject whose task is to serve the needs of the master. In the gospel today, the servant who was found faithful to his duty of waiting for the master is given power over all his possessions as if the servant is made into a business partner. But in Luke 12:35-38, there was a more radical move on the part of the master. The master himself will make the servant to sit at table and start serving the servant. We have here an unprecedented revelation of God's love in Jesus Christ. And Jesus acted out this parable during the Last Supper when he knelt down and washed the feet of his disciples and commanded them to do the same. Can we accept this teaching?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (INTERNATIONAL LAW)—When immunity from suit may not be invoked—"It is a different matter where the public official is made to account in his capacity as such for acts contrary to law and injurious to the rights of the plaintiff. As was clearly set forth by Justice Zaldivar in Director of the Bureau of Telecommunications, et al., vs Aligaen, et al. (33 SCRA 368): 'In as much as the State authorizes only legal acts by its officers, unauthorized acts of government officials or officers are not acts of the State, and an action against the officials or officers by one whose rights have been invaded or violated by such acts, for the protection of his rights, is not a suit against the State within the rule of immunity of the State from suit. In the same tenor, it has been said that an action at law or suit in equity against a State officer or the director of a State department on the ground that, while claiming to act for the State, he violates or invades the personal and property rights of the plaintiff, under an unconstitutional act or under an assumption of authority which he does not have, is not a suit against the State within the constitutional provision that the State may not be sued without its consent. The rationale for this ruling is that the doctrine of state immunity cannot be used as an instrument for perpetrating an injustice. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, First Division, Minucher vs Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 142396, February 11, 2003]

BY R. B. VERA

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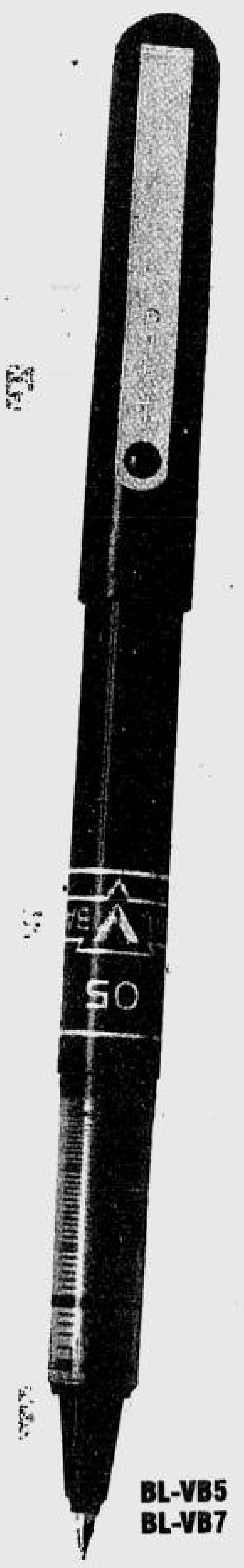
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OPINION

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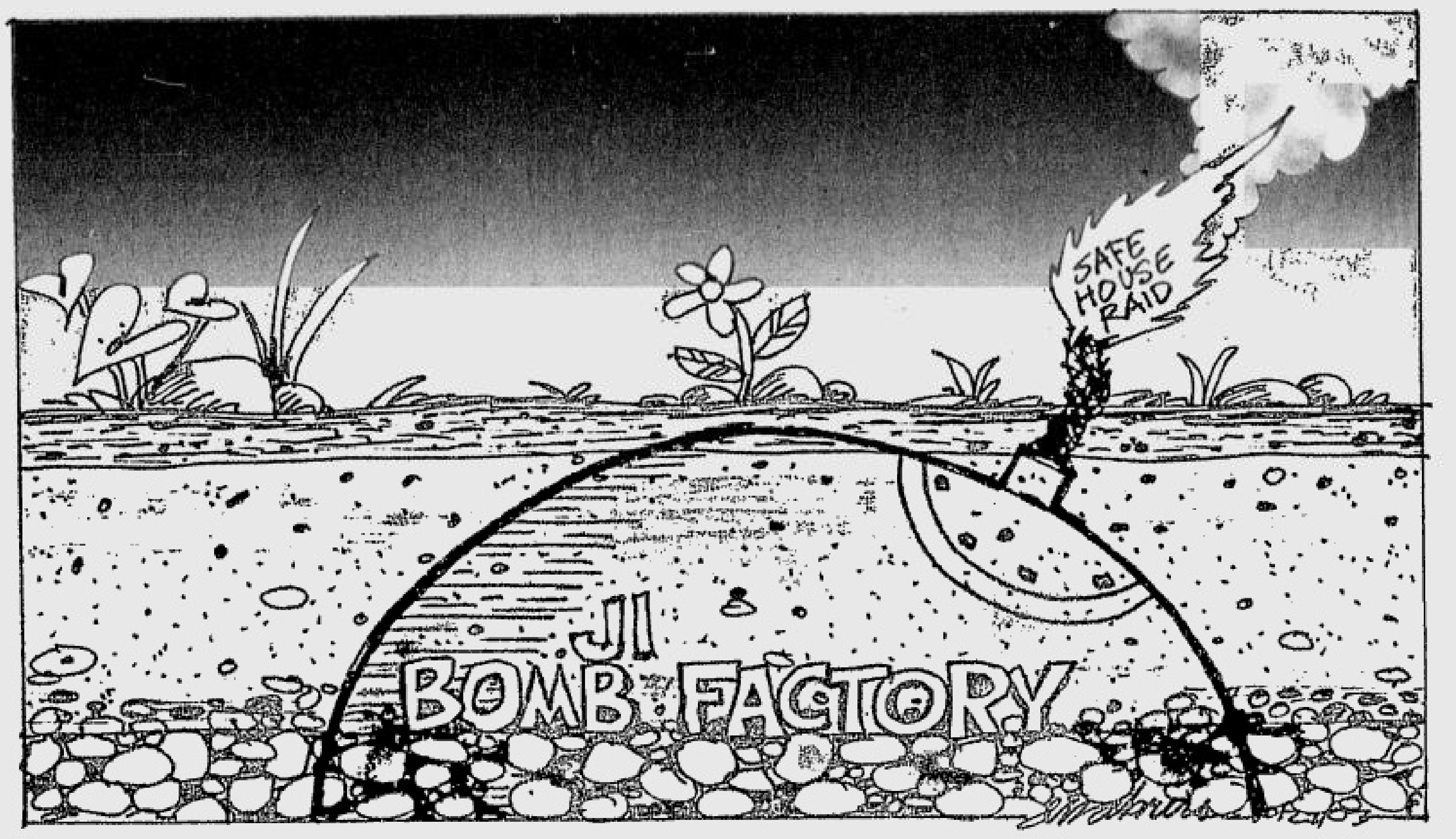


Silly debate

EDITORIAL

DID he or didn't he? That seems to be the most hotly debated question following US President George W. Bush's eight-hour state visit last Saturday. Not whether the Philippines ought to stand firmly on America's side while Bush wages a unilateral war on terrorism. Not the offer of support for the modernization of the Armed Forces and the Mindanao peace process. And not even the glowing tribute to Philippine democracy as a "light to Asia and beyond." Even before Air Force One touched down at Villamor Airbase, the question that was uppermost in every Filipino politician's mind was, will Bush endorse President Macapagal-Arroyo's bid for a full term in 2004?

Indeed, long before the Bush visit, getting Bush to make a clear commitment to support Ms Macapagal's candidacy had become almost an obsession with her political advisers. After her state visit to Washington, someone close to the President leaked to the press that Bush was encouraging Ms Macapagal to stand for election. Bush was quoted as saying, in reference to Ms Macapagal's earlier pledge not to run in 2004, that women enjoyed the privilege of changing their minds.

But Bush would have been dumber than dumb to openly endorse Ms Macapagal, as her supporters had wished. That would have revived old charges and old wounds over US interference in domestic matters. Thus, Ms Macapagal's advisers and political allies were reduced to parsing Bush's words and interpreting his body language to find an endorsement of Ms Macapagal's candidacy.

Former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, secretary general of the administration Lakas-CMD, conceded that Bush didn't ask Filipino's to vote for Ms Macapagal but added that the US president endorsed her "leadership and management style." Joey Rufino, one of her political advisers, said Bush made a "subtle and direct endorsement" of her leadership. And Conrado Limcaoco, the presidential adviser on media and religious affairs, said Bush "stopped a hair short of endorsement," when he told a reporter of the government television network that Ms Macapagal had "a strong agenda to run on" and described her as "very strong."

Of course, opposition leaders didn't agree, with Sen. Edgardo Angara dismissing the talk about a Bush endorsement as "hallucination." House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said the administration was "gloating over routine praises" which Bush had dished out to Ms Macapagal.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone sought to clear the air by stressing that Bush's "central message is, we support Philippine democracy." Ricciardone emphasized, "The President (Bush) was endorsing Philippine democracy."

That should put an end to this silly debate over who is Bush's preferred candidate. But if that still isn't enough to bring some euphoric administration drum-beaters to the ground, they should be reminded that state visitors have never been known for making very accurate and candid statements. Bush's own father, George Sr., earned the contempt of millions of Filipinos when, as vice president, he praised the dictator Ferdinand Marcos for his "adherence to democracy."

People would be wiser to look at what happened instead of listening to what was said during the Bush visit. And in laying out a successful welcome for the US president, Ms Macapagal certainly scored significant points not only with American officials but also with her countrymen.

Still while the evident trust, friendship and rapport between the two leaders may go over well with the elite, it remains to be seen whether this can be translated into votes among electors who care very little about international relations and worry a lot about how they will get their next meal.

Staying together

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE FAILURE of the World Trade Organization conference in Cancun might prove costly for emerging economies and for a great number of poor countries. A more balanced and more just world trade would help economic expansion, speed up modernization among countries of medium-development level and pull millions out of poverty. To accomplish that would be enough to fulfill the mandate of Doha, launched in 2001.

It now seems very difficult to complete the round by the end of 2004. But according to Celso Amorin, Brazil's foreign minister, the action taken by a group of 21 developing nations (G21) defending agricultural trade with less restrictions was a positive outcome. Preserving that group will be a paramount task for Brazil's diplomacy. *O Estado de S. Paulo (Brazil)*

Adopt a dog from an animal shelter

(Continued from yesterday)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

OWNING a pet is a big responsibility. But because of our culture, we Filipinos take it lightly. In the provinces, a friend's dog or cat gives birth to a litter and we ask for one to take home. The owner is only too happy to give the puppies or kittens away for free because he can't feed them all anyway. And in a few months the dog or cat will bear another litter. Neutering or spaying of pets is unheard of in the provinces. Bitches are often impregnated by stray dogs. So the population explosion is terrific. But no problem, the pets run free anyway and are often self-supporting, scrounging for food on their own. Dogs generally feed on table scraps; most of the cats hunt for their own food, aside from that given them.

But when Filipinos take this culture to the city, the problem begins. The congestion in the city makes stray animals a big and serious problem. No more is the wide open space of the province. Humans and animals are packed more closely together. There are more vehicles that can crush them. And yet we are unable to differentiate the congestion of the city from the openness of the province. Up to recently, small herds of cattle roamed freely in Quezon City, feeding on grass in vacant lots and sidewalks, and people tolerated them.

But dogs are different altogether. Cattle don't bite people; dogs do. Dogs therefore should be kept inside their owners' yards so they don't become a menace to society. Yet many city folk let their dogs roam the streets and think nothing of it.

But when Filipinos choose to confine their dogs, the effect is often extreme. The cages are too small, or the chains too short. Sometimes, they're left out in the hot sun and rain. When they get sick, they are not taken to the veterinarian. Why waste money on a dog? It's only an animal, they say.

But owning a dog (or a cat or any other pet) is a big responsibility. Before getting one, consider what you have to do to take good care of it. Buy a book on the pet you are planning to get to see what you have to do. If you can't do them, don't get the pet.

Most people acquire dogs for companionship and to guard their homes, but some do it for status. These are the people who acquire pure breeds with certificates from canine clubs. Even in the ownership of dogs, we have a colonial mentality. The status seekers don't realize that these pure breeds have inherent defects. The sloping back of the highly popular German Shepherd make for hip bones that are easily dislocated. The Bulldog and the Pekingese, because of their short muzzles, can't breathe very well.

Most dogs were bred to do certain tasks. The Border Collie was bred to herd sheep, and it is happiest when herding sheep. So it cannot be kept in the city. The Dalmatian, which has become very popular because of the movie, was bred to run with the chariots of their masters. It goes without saying that it cannot be cooped up in an apartment. Like the Border Collie, it needs plenty of exercise.

Dachshunds and Basset Hounds have short legs, long bodies, and big ears because they were bred to hunt and dig up rabbits and other small animals that hide underground. The big ears, like the ears of the bloodhounds, fan the air to their nostrils so they can smell it better. The Labrador Retriever and Golden Retriever were bred to swim in the frigid waters to retrieve ducks and geese shot down by hunters. So they need to be allowed to swim.

The Collie, popularized by Lassie, and the poodle with the long hair, are cute but they need plenty of shampooing, brushing and combing. What's more, they shed plenty of hair and if somebody in the family has asthma, better not to have them. What's more, the Collie drools saliva all over. Yuch!

So, pure breeds have plenty of class but they need plenty of caring. They also have special needs. Can you give them? If you can't, better not to have these pets. What's more, pure breeds are more susceptible to tropical diseases. The most hardy are the lowly *askals* (for *asong kalye*, stray dogs), the mongrels. But a mongrel adopted by a responsible family and kept inside house premises ceases to be an *askal*. Because the mongrel is a mixture of many breeds, only the sturdiest qualities of their ancestors remain. That is why mongrels are more resistant to diseases to which pure breeds easily succumb.

And do you know that some of the highest earning dogs in the movies are mongrels taken from animal shelters? So, if you want to have a pet dog, don't buy a puppy from a pet shop; go to an animal shelter first. Buying from pet shops only encourages the indiscriminate breeding of dogs—and the trafficking of animals—for profit. Besides, a puppy may look cute, cuddly and friendly now, but you don't know how it would look like or what its temperament would be when it grows up

On the other hand, the dog in the animal shelter is already grown up and you can already sense its temperament. Animal shelters don't put up for adoption dogs with bad temperaments.

The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) periodically puts up for adoption animals—that is, abandoned and rescued animals—in its shelter where they are subjected to health examinations, vaccinated, bathed, fed well for months before being given away for adoption. Because for the most part they have been ill-treated by their former owners who abandoned them, these animals are very grateful and can be very loving of the new owners who rescue them and give them a new life.

World-class

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WANTED to write about this over the last couple of weeks, but it kept getting blindsided by one thing and another.

I'm ecstatic that two Filipinos have won the "alternative Nobel prize." They are Walden Bello and Nicanor Perlas. They've won the Right Livelihood Awards, founded in 1980 to recognize those who have contributed to uplifting humankind but are overlooked by the Nobel Prize. They were cited for playing "crucial and complementary roles and developing the theoretical and practical bases for a world that benefits all people." Walden and Nicky have been active in fighting the WTO version of "globalization" and been offering alternative models for true globalization instead.

No two people could be more deserving. No two people too could be nicer. Nice guys can finish first.

Walden is the better known. He fired up the popular imagination in 1995 when he challenged Trade Secretary Rizalino Navarro and a couple of ardent defenders of the GATT Treaty to a public debate, three against one. The three did not accept, of course, for reasons that did not entirely owe to a perceived impropriety. By then Walden had written tomes on the subject and debated with American officials espousing a WTO regime. But his challenge helped thrust the issue into the public mind and made the treaty one of the most hotly debated topics in this country. No small feat in a country that would rather debate whether the Brunei beauties should be banned or not.

The arguments for and against GATT then are worth reviewing today to see whom time has vindicated. Not quite incidentally, the one who most argued for it in the Senate was Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Less than 10 years later, last month, she would hail the Cancun meeting which stopped the WTO from stamping its will on the world, but that was not what she was saying then. Like all the ardent supporters of the Treaty, she was urging everyone to embrace the WTO as the new Moses leading the world to the Promised Land. Well, had it not been for people like Walden and Nicky, we'd still be stuck in the desert.

Nicky, on the other hand, is well known to people who are looking for a more meaningful life, outside and inside oneself. He too has written several tomes on how to achieve an alternative global society, one based on multiplicity rather than uniformity, local initiative rather than external intervention, individual possibilities rather than one-size-fits-all models. More than writing about them, he has lived them, successfully applying what he preaches in farms that use biodynamic technology.

I particularly like Nicky because he was a leading light of Pagbabago shortly before Edsa II but never wore his medals afterward like a veteran in a pub like most everyone there. More to the point, he did not sit in the corridors of Malacañang, waiting to be thrown a bone for his deeds. He wouldn't just have found that idea distasteful, he would have found it funny, and laughed it off in his amiable way. Everyone was saying then he would have been perfect for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. He was, he is. But he had better things to do than snarl and snap for scraps of meat.

I am particularly glad for their awards because it drives home several things.

First is the falsity of that word "globalization" as used by WTO-GATT. I myself have always used that word in quotation marks because it is **not** globalization. How can you have globalization when the United States and Europe heavily subsidize their agriculture while asking the South countries to liberalize theirs? How can you have globalization when the United States and Europe regard South knowledge as folklore, which can be used freely, and North knowledge as "intellectual property," which can be used only by paying fees? That is not globalization, that is anti-globalization. That is double standard. I do hope people like Walden and Nicky can come out with other words for WTO-GATT "globalization," because the battlefield is also language. It is really domination rather than globalization.

Second, for Filipinos in particular, the two have shown that global is not American. Though seemingly self-evident, that is by no means obvious to us. Whenever Filipino officials talk of global—as when GMA talks of this country's global commitments—they merely mean American. Our concept of global isn't even Western because it little accommodates the European outlook, merely the American one. We are neither global nor expansive because we love the NBA and are ready to die in the deserts of Iraq, we are merely parochial and narrow-minded. As Walden and Nicky show, true globalization lies in solidarity with other peoples, with the progressive forces of both North and South countries that are fighting to build a better world.

But above all, I'm glad for Walden and Nicky's award because it gives recognition to true grit. The highest form of courage is moral, not physical. Walden and Nicky are not just formidable intellectuals, they are generous human beings. They do not just have a lot of head, they have a lot of heart. Both could easily have been pillars of orthodoxy—the kind that don't quite know what to do with the flood of grants tumbling their way—had they chosen to be so. They could have enjoyed peer acclaim, or backpatting, and surrounded themselves with creature comforts, the kind abundantly offered by WTO "globalization." But they did not. On the contrary, they endured the insult and derision of that camp, particularly during its triumphalist years before the devastating 1997 Asian financial crisis. They were there when it mattered and not just when the victory came.

Their awards are well earned. They have taken the road not taken.

And that has made all the difference.

Trivializing the Bush visit

Analysis

Amando Doronila

FROM OUR very parochial perspective of viewing events, the whirlwind visit last week of US President George W. Bush was assessed on the issue of whether it was a political windfall for President Macapagal-Arroyo who is standing for election in May 2004. Such questions trivialize the Bush visit, which bore a larger strategic significance for American foreign and security policy.

Macapagal administration officials were quick to claim that the statements of Bush "stopped a hair short of an explicit endorsement" of the President for 2004. The opposition side said the visit was a "kiss of death" for her. Neither interpretation is correct.

Factually, there was absolutely nothing—not one single straw to clutch—in Bush's speech at the joint session of Congress and in the remarks of both presidents in the exchange of amenities at Malacañang by which to conclude he made an "endorsement." The "kiss of death" interpretation is as fatuous as the Palace's spin. That we are breaking our heads looking for hidden meanings in Bush's words is an implicit recognition that, up until now, more than six decades after independence, there remains an enduring notion that Washington determines the outcome of our presidential elections. This notion is a manifestation of the colonial mentality that still grips on the Filipinos' political consciousness.

All that Bush did in his speech was to point out that the Philippines and the United States are locked in an alliance in the war on terror, saying that the "the US-Philippines military alliance is a rock of stability in the Pacific." He spoke with warmth about the support Ms Macapagal had given him in the war on terror and on his decision to invade Iraq, in contrast to the opposition by the "old Europe" allies of the United States. When Bush singled out President Macapagal's support, his words were an expression of gratitude. "We are honored to visit America's oldest ally in Asia, and one of America's most valued friends in the world." These were the words of an American president who, while winning militarily the war in Iraq, sounded very much like a man needing friends in Asia and Europe, and in deep political trouble at home over the mounting costs of the occupation and economic rehabilitation of Iraq as that country is being steered to democracy. Bush did reveal that the five-year program for the modernization of the Philippine armed forces was being reviewed and its details being hammered out.

Administration officials could not by any means conclude that these commitments and statements constituted an endorsement of President Macapagal's election to a full six-year term. Military and economic aid will benefit US interests as much as it will benefit Philippine interests, depending on how we use it. President Macapagal may derive short-term electoral benefits from this fresh infusion of military and economic assets. The Philippine military's capability to fight terrorists might be enhanced by this aid, but this enhancement could also help strengthen the weak Asian flanks in the war on terror.

Visits of American presidents and the warm receptions received by Filipino presidents visiting Washington have traditionally left a fall-out of glow on the public opinion standing of Filipino presidents among their own people. But this fallout is only short-lived. Without doubt, Bush's visit will leave a patina of glow on President Macapagal, but she and her over-enthusiastic spin doctors are deluding themselves if they believe US approval or vote of confidence is decisive in determining the outcome of the 2004 elections.

No matter what the nationalists and the leftists say about American imperialism, their denunciations have never made a dent in stopping the election of presidents accused of being pro-American. The fact is that all Filipino presidents in the post-war years have been pro-American, in varying degrees. The truth is the outcome of elections in this country has never been decided on the issue of anti-Americanism. The opposition cannot be more wrong than describing the Bush visit as a "kiss of death."

If Macapagal is to win at all, she will have to campaign on three key domestic issues that have nothing to do with pro- or anti-Americanism—the economy, law and order and corruption, in that order. She need not be embarrassed over the warmth and the promises of aid lavished on her by Bush. The nationalists and the Left have always denounced aid as a manifestation of Philippine dependence and subservience to the United States. Our problem is not US aid that has flowed to us in exchange for our serving American foreign policy interests—the military bases during the Cold War, and now the Philippine engagement with the United States in the "coalition of the willing" in the war on terror.

Our problem is how we used the aid to promote our own security and economic development. American aid since the end of World War II has been lavished on us, but we did not use the aid to fuel economic growth and development. We squandered it through corruption. Aid did not make us dependent on the United States. How we used and squandered these assets led us to a dependency relation with the United States.

The new infusion of US aid following Philippine support for Bush's war on terror should by all means be welcomed as another opportunity not only to strengthen our armed forces but also to boost economic recovery and development which can undercut the roots of law and order conflicts. If we are strong economically, we can tell the United States to go to hell if it intervenes in our political life and sovereignty. Weak nations can't say "No." The leftists' walk-out on Bush in Congress was good drama, but did not make this country stronger and prosperous.

Justice in law and life

At Large

Rina Jimenez-David

ON THE COVER of the book "The Shari'a Courts in the Philippines: Women, Men and Muslim Personal Laws" by Isabelita Solamo-Antonio is a photo taken during a workshop of the National Network for Muslim Women's Rights. It shows a group of smiling Muslim women, distinguishable by the scarves that cover their heads, with their arms upraised, looking powerful, empowered, empowering.

The Network is the offshoot of the "Shari'a Court Watch" and earlier studies on the impact of Muslim personal laws on women, which are documented in the book. The Pilipina Legal Resources Center convened the Network which today is, in Solamo-Antonio's words, "the lone organization that has women representatives from all the Muslim ethno-linguistic groups and as such the group is in a unique position to provide a voice and leadership in many critical areas of society."

Among the areas of concern and study for Muslim women are reproductive rights, sexuality and social justice "in the context of Muslim customary and statutory laws that govern not only the life but also the sexual behavior of women."

A survey of the cases filed with the Shari'a courts shows that most were for divorce by *faskh* (or court order) and petitions for support. The rest of the cases included mutual agreements to dissolve a marriage, petitions to resume marital relationships, applications for registration of divorce by *talaq* (declarations) and petitions to contract subsequent marriage or polygamy.

The same study found that the majority of the litigants were women, with relatively few men feeling the need to access the courts. There were also more cases dismissed than decided, with most of the dismissed cases filed by women. Even so, many women respondents said they would have accessed the Shari'a court system if they only had the means to file the fees and hire lawyers.

* * *

SOLAMO-ANTONIO puts the plight of Filipino Muslim women quite succinctly: "Filipino Muslim women have the same status problems in the private and public spheres of life as experienced by their fellow Filipino Christian counterparts but as members of a religious community, Muslim women (seem to experience) another level of inequality. For Muslim women, the rhythms, the patterns, the structure of everyday life are shaped by an intricate web of laws, rules and customs often said to be Islamic and thus, not open to negotiation and change. (But) what in fact is considered Islamic is in fact not Islamic (i.e., that which is divine or ordained) but Muslim (i.e. of those who adhere to Islam) and reflects the assimilation of Islam into prevailing structures, systems and practices and hence explains the many significantly different varieties of Muslim societies that exist today."

This is how, as the author puts it, "customary and religious laws and practices are used as tools to control women's sexuality and to maintain the imbalance of power in sexual relations." This affects, in turn, "women's ability to participate in every level of social life from decision-making within the home and family, to education, employment and even her own body."

So while Philippine laws proscribe early marriages, arranged marriages and polygamy, these are sanctioned by the Code of Muslim Personal Laws. And while women are allowed to seek divorce from their husbands, even this power is highly circumscribed.

"Women feel unable to seek divorce if their husbands have extra-marital affairs since this is not a legal ground for divorce. Although cruelty is one of the grounds for divorce, our studies show that no cases for divorce have been filed on grounds of domestic violence, wife beating or marital rape."

* * *

TO FIND ways of modifying or applying traditional and religious rules and practices better suited to the changing role of women, Filipino Muslim women need to look at how other Muslim societies have bridged the demands of fidelity to the faith and adherence to more secular freedoms.

The Network has already come up with a list of changes they deem necessary in the code, including: eliminating any form of discrimination on the provision on hereditary rights; equal provision of unilateral oral divorce which is the prerogative of Muslim men; the provision on domicile; the provision on the right to work or practice one's profession; the provision on the management of the household; the provision on child marriage which violates the rights of a child and the operational definition of just treatment in subsequent marriages.

* * *

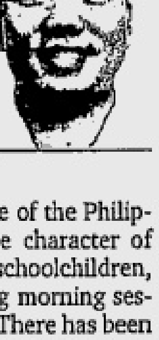
ASIDE FROM discovering inequalities imbedded in the code and implemented through popular practice, the study also unearthed systematic failings in the Shari'a court system that affect its ability to provide justice to Muslim women and families. Among these failings is the lack of financial support from the national government, resulting in a shocking level of vacancies in Shari'a courts, the lack of trained Shari'a judges and lawyers, as well as the resulting backlog of cases and those that are dismissed without sufficient study or deliberation.

But the study also found outstanding and dedicated Shari'a judges and court personnel, who see their work as not just employment but also as a vocation, since many judges also happen to be religious leaders in their communities.

"There is a growing critical mass of Muslim women who are convinced that the gains of the women's movement in the Philippines and worldwide must be reflected in all (our) laws," states Solamo-Antonio. And with energy and power, they are pursuing the cause of equality under the law and in everyday life.

Rizal in the 'miseducation' of Filipinos

Looking Back



Ambeth R. Ocampo

READING through the text of the speech US President George W. Bush delivered last weekend before the joint session of the Philippine Congress, one is struck by the reference to Jose Rizal. Human memory being short, one turns to history to remember that a century earlier US President Theodore Roosevelt used Rizal in a similar way to talk about sacrifice and freedom, thereby skirting reference to the Philippine-American War then raging. At the time, expansionist politicians were hard pressed to explain how the United States helped Emilio Aguinaldo overthrow the Spaniards, only to step in where the Spaniards left, supposedly to prepare the Filipinos for self-government.

Such use of Rizal, no wonder, has led many to harbor the suspicion that Rizal is an American-made hero. Perhaps, had Bush used Andres Bonifacio instead, he might have pulled the rug from under the many anti-US demonstrators he did not encounter in his short visit.

Bush also referred to America's part in our history. "Together our soldiers liberated the Philippines from colonial rule. Together we rescued the islands from invasion and occupation." Indeed, Filipino and American forces fought side by side during the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Revolution in 1898. They did the same in World War II. But what about the Philippine-American War that broke out in 1899 and ended officially in 1901, but unofficially raged way past 1913?

Another ghost of our American colonial past happens to be health and education. Nationalist historians from Renato Constantino to Reynaldo Ileto have shown that colonial programs, once seen as positive, were used in a negative way. We will not go into the teaching of English and the American way aptly described by Constantino as the "miseducation of the Filipino." There was something about the school lunch program described in a 1913 report:

"A large percentage of the people of the Philippines are underfed because of the character of their diet. This is especially true of schoolchildren, many of whom stay through a long morning session without having any breakfast. There has been established a comprehensive lunch system in the Manila city schools as a result of which nutritious lunches are furnished at an absurdly low cost to all who care for them. For four centavos (practically 2 cents gold) a pupil can obtain a bowl of hot nourishing soup or stew, a buttered sandwich, a piece of cake, and a glass of ice cream or an ice." Of course, the prices compared to today are outrageous, but more insidious was the shaping of the tastes of schoolchildren from Filipino to Western. While a Filipino diet could be made balanced and nutritious, Western fare was made to appear better.

"At the Tondo Intermediate School, the articles sold are grouped under the following heads: Fritters, ices, tarts, cookies, pies, hot biscuits, soups and stews, sandwiches, cakes, muffins, and miscellaneous, the latter designation covering doughnuts, chicken pie, deviled crabs, cheese straws, fried salmon and bread, baked potato and salmon, Johnny cake, Washington pie, and macaroni and cheese, while from two to five different articles are furnished under each of the other heads, so that the tastes of all may be suited. The most expensive item on the list costs but five centavos (2.5 cents gold) and even then a small profit is made, as all the work of preparing the food, washing the dishes, etc., is done by pupils under the supervision of teachers. The pupils are thus taught to prepare wholesome and nourishing food in a strictly sanitary way and at the same time learn how very inexpensively they may live well. A medical inspector, formerly detailed to the city schools, states that, a year after this lunch system was established, the health of the pupils had improved 90 percent. It should not be understood that the bureau of health takes credit for this admirable lunch system originated by the bureau of education. I mention it as a matter vitally influencing the health of schoolchildren."

Constantino was right about the "miseducation" of the Filipino: that it was connected with language and the peculiar version of history that was taught in those days and still haunts us today. What I did not realize till I read the text above was that everything was covered—including Filipino taste buds. Little wonder that even at the height of the Filipinization of the government under Governor General Harrison, when most American civil servants were replaced by Filipinos, the director of public instruction remained an American.

Aside from public education and the creation of the professional civil service, the American colonial period is praised for its public health programs. Reynaldo Ileto, 20 years ago, pointed out that even this requires reevaluation. Ileto showed that the war against cholera was not just a concern of the department of health but also of the US military trying to contain Filipino aspirations for independence. Placing "quarantine" in a new context, he illustrated how it was also used as a subtle way of "hamletting" Filipinos, forcing people in the fields into the towns, thus cutting off support for the continuing Philippine Revolution. Reevaluating our history will lead to a fresh understanding of present Philippine-US relations.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Arsenic Mt. Apo

Commentary

Bernardo V. Lopez

RECENTLY, the INQUIRER reported that the National Poison Control and Information Service and the Department of Health released a study which revealed arsenic poisoning in six villages on Mt. Apo, home of the controversial geothermal plant of the Philippine National Oil Co. The study was led by Dr. Nelia Maramba, a toxicologist from the University of the Philippines.

The PNOC was quick to reply that, aside from geothermal, there are other possible sources of arsenic, like natural occurrences in volcanic areas and pesticides.

The "pesticide theory" is a dead argument: arsenic is not a major ingredient of pesticides. Even if it were, pesticides are not used in the six villages as massively as to infect people and soil with abnormally high levels of arsenic.

The "natural occurrence theory" is also a bad argument. I was deeply involved in the arsenic issue in Mt. Apo as early as the exploration stage. During that time, a Japanese journalist sneaked into a waste pond and took a sample geothermal waste into a film canister. When the escorting PNOC employees saw this, they ran after the Japanese and demanded that he gave them the canister. The Japanese said, "You have to kill me first." The panicky PNOC personnel failed to retrieve the damning evidence. Later, the Japanese sent me the results of the laboratory test on the contents of that canister. Showing high concentration of arsenic, the results proved beyond reasonable doubt that the geothermal waste was a source of arsenic poisoning.

The PNOC claims that it has a very strict "zero-waste" management discharge. But if there is smoke, there is fire. The study confirmed arsenic poisoning, and the canister showed the poison comes from the PNOC's geothermal waste.

The PNOC also claims it won an environmental award from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Of course. A government-to-government award is not unlike someone praising one's own. It may have PR value, but it does not rule out arsenic poisoning.

We commend the people behind the DOH study. Being themselves government employees, they were careful in putting the blame on the PNOC. But they were certainly honest enough to reveal the vital information to the public.

Lately, the INQUIRER also reported that local health and environment offices based in Kidapawan have formed a task force to validate the Maramba study. I just hope this is not an attempt at a whitewash. The PNOC is such a powerful and affluent entity as to easily influence local studies. May we request the involvement of Church and NGO representatives in these studies to ensure transparency, and I mean NGOs that are not under PNOC influence. May we also ask for representatives from the DENR and DOH central offices, especially from the team of Maramba.

Like mercury poisoning, the symptoms of arsenic poisoning do not come out until years of slow ingestion, by which time the poisoning is irreversible and incurable. Cumulative arsenic ingestion ultimately affects the nervous system, and its disastrous effects manifest in fits of convulsions, says a Japanese toxicologist.

A 5-year-old boy prone to convulsions, Richard of Barangay Ilomavis, is one of seven children in the study area, found to have fallen victim to arsenic poisoning. The Maramba study revealed that Richard's arsenic level reached a whopping 22.07 micrograms, 700 percent higher than the acceptable level of 3 micrograms. Soil samples from four of the six villages, Mua-an, Meohao, Matingaw and Sayaban, were also found abnormally high in arsenic. In Mua-an, it reached 4.87 milligrams, 4,000 percent higher than the acceptable United States standard of 0.09 milligrams.

We have to do something about the poison that is eating up people's lives and the environment in Mt. Apo. We cannot forever ignore children with high concentration of arsenic in their blood all for the electric power we need. If we allow the electricity with which we supply big business in Mindanao to be tainted with the blood of the Bagobos of Mt. Apo, then we are all guilty of genocide.

There is a cheap easy high-tech way to find out arsenic ingestion by humans. Arsenic integrates with the protein in human hair, says the Japanese toxicologist. He had taken hair samples in the same Mt. Apo villages years ago and found them positive in arsenic. Just four inches of a few strands of hair contains a detailed history of arsenic ingestion. When the PNOC found out that we were taking hair samples, they forbade villagers from giving hair to us under all kinds of threat.

This shows that the PNOC does not care if poor tribal people are poisoned. If it were sincerely concerned with the health effects of its operations, it should have permitted evidence to surface. Instead, in some of the affected villages, the PNOC, as far back as in the exploration period, has kept barangay captains mum with "PR" donations, such as barangay halls and basketball courts.

During the exploration days, the Japanese toxicologist also examined PNOC workers quarrying gravel and sand from a river suspected to contain effluents from the PNOC geothermal plant. He showed evidence of arsenic presence in the heels of these workers.

Other symptoms of arsenic poisoning include vomiting, diarrhea, kidney, liver and lung malfunctions, hyper-pigmentation, skin rashes, facial lesions and cancer. The Maramba study says the "Mee's lines" on Richard's fingernails are a manifestation of arsenic poisoning and that his regular convulsions indicate the poison is "eating" him up.

The Japanese toxicologist says children, more than adults, are more easily victimized by arsenic, which can be lethal if its slow ingestion is not stopped. Arsenic ingestion can be had from bathing in the river, or from drinking.

In spite of damning evidence of arsenic poisoning during the exploration period in the Mt. Apo area, in spite of many exposés in both print and television media then, the PNOC and the government ignored the problem and proceeded with the PNOC geothermal project there. The protest died down and the PNOC quietly went on with the project for the next seven or so years.

We appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo, DENR, DOH, NGOs and the North Cotabato local government to look into the arsenic poisoning in Mt. Apo and attend to the people they serve. The millions we earn from the PNOC geothermal plant is not development if it kills people.

Bernardo V. Lopez is a freelance journalist. E-mail: eastwind@edsamail.com.ph

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We, today's crisis

"TO WHAT shall I compare the people of this generation? What are they like?"

This is the beginning of the Gospel of a Mass celebrated a few days ago. You might think our Lord's words are now obsolete after 2,000 years. Not at all.

Especially these days, when certain public events can lead you to ask in exasperation, what's happening to the world today? Has there been a mutation of humanity? To what shall we compare the people of this generation?

What used to be a no-no, a taboo, can now be talked about, and even screamed with the power of a whole broadcast network, for all people to hear.

What used to be pure and simple mudslinging is dignified in our Senate as a matter of national interest.

There is so much noise meant not so much to express indignation as to hide and distort reality and further one's self-interest.

The line between decency and impropriety has been redrawn. Matters that we always thought should be properly handled in private are now taken up in public.

What's happening?

What's happening is what the Gospel says next: "They are like children in the marketplace... We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we played the dirge, but you did not weep."

In short, what's happening is that people are not taking God and his commandments seriously. Like impulsive children, they dare to take whatever semblance of truth and goodness and justice to promote their own selfish interests, but not for God's will.

It's selfishness, pure and simple, that is being served. It is only pure accident that God's will gets done in the pursuit of one's shameless personal or political self-interest.

Again, we have a clear case of people abusing freedom and exploiting truth, people proud of having the truth on their side, and all too eager to exercise their freedoms, but, for what? Definitely not to serve God's will. Only their own interest.

And so we are left at the mercy of those who have more power, more money, more influence. The objective basis of what is right and wrong disappears. Truth and goodness and justice turn up as the result of popularity and consensus, a matter of who belongs to the majority.

With this kind of setup, what is promoted is the use of emotions and feelings. Nothing wrong with that as long as it is not done at the expense of reason, and especially of faith.

The problem is that objective thinking and the delicate application of faith to concrete situations are victimized in the passion of the controversies.

This alienation from God in the pursuit of self-interest, at the expense of truth and goodness, this is the cause of the crisis afflicting us these days.

—FR. ROY CIMAGALA,
chaplain, Center for Industrial
Technology and Enterprise (CITE)
Talamban, Cebu City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

QC cops have been disciplined

THIS pertains to Neal Cruz's column titled "Cops in police detachments undisciplined" (PDI, 9/18/03), referring to the personnel of the police detachment at Balintawak Clover Leaf and those from the Tandang Sora Police Community Precinct (PCP).

Please be informed that the station commander of La Loma Police Station has ordered the dismantling of the unauthorized structures adjoining the Police Assistance Center at Balintawak Market.

SPO4 Reynaldo Medina, was relieved as the PAC commander and was replaced by Police Insp. Marco Polo Estrera effective Sept. 23, 2003. On the same date, the regional director of the National Capital Region Police Office inspected the newly painted PAC and expressed satisfaction with the improvements made thereon.

As for the alleged omissions committed by the police personnel at Tandang Sora Police Community Precinct (PCP), the concerned PCP commander reported that they have been providing traffic management at the nearby intersection in support of Metro Manila Development Authority personnel.

The Tandang Sora PCP always reminds bus and jeepney drivers plying the Tandang Sora intersection to follow traffic rules and regulations. This is the most the PCP can do with traffic violations since it is only the personnel of the MMDA and the Land Transportation Office that can issue traffic violation receipts.

As for the illegal vendors, the concerned commander of Police Station 1 and the Tandang Sora PCP have been directed to conduct a sustained drive against illegal vendors at the Balintawak Market area and Tandang Sora-Commonwealth Avenue intersection.

Last but not least, the newly designated commander of Tandang Sora PCP reported that his unit has not been remiss in its duties; in a span of two months, he and his operatives were able to neutralize several holduppers and snatchers in their area of jurisdiction, in addition to the police visibility patrol they have been conducting for the security of the business establishments on Commonwealth Avenue.

—NAPOLEON C. CASTRO,
police chief superintendent and district
director, National Police Commission,
PNP, Central Police District, Camp
Karingal, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City

Teachers unpaid for almost two months

THIS is on behalf of the many provisional teachers whose salaries have been cut due to their pending appointment as professional teachers with the Professional Regulation Commission. They have applied for licenses as professional teachers under Republic Act 7836, paying the appropriate fees. Sad to say, up to now their applications have not been acted upon, resulting in their salaries being cut for two months now.

There are, more or less, 50 of these teachers from our municipality, all of them with families to raise.

—ROSITA N. ADJIMUDDIN,
ESHT, Department of Education,
Siasi District I, Siasi, Sulu

Amnesty for professionals

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo can win hands down, if she can convince President George W. Bush Jr. to declare amnesty to overstaying Filipinos who are professionals in their fields.

—REMIGIO A. CHENG,
6 Melody St., Sta. Cecilia Subd.,
Pamplona, Las Piñas City

Taiwan's record in Apec

WHEN Taiwan, under the name "Chinese Taipei," joined the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) in 1991, it recognized that the differences in the development levels among Asia-Pacific economies would necessitate mutual cooperation in developing the regional economy as a whole. Such cooperation would be vital for creating prosperity and well-being for the region. Taiwan has since enthusiastically participated in a wide range of Apec activities, aiming to contribute substantially to stability and growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

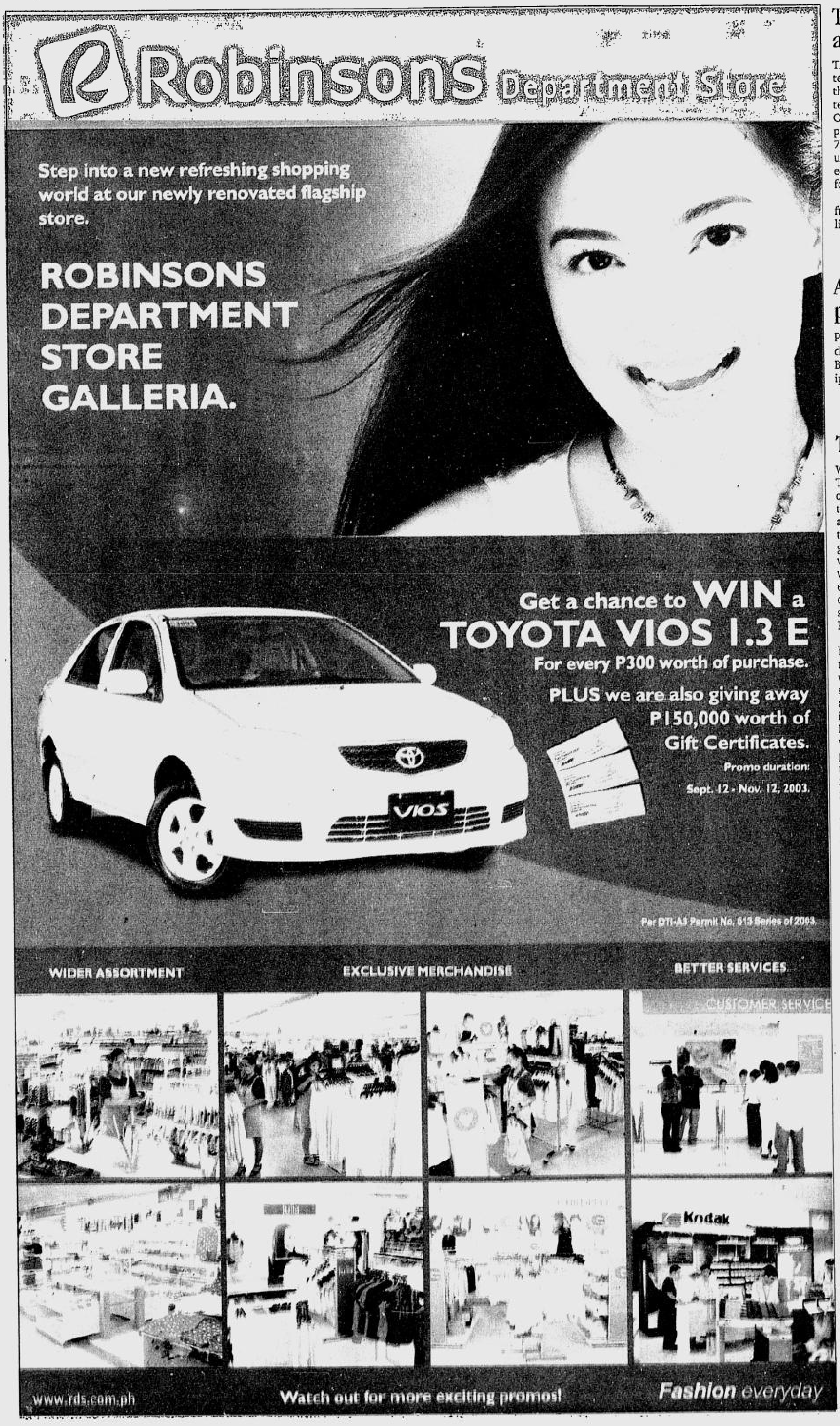
After many years of hard work, Apec member economies have reached consensus on the principle of trade facilitation. Meanwhile, Apec economies have been advancing step by step toward the goals of establishing a free and open environment for trade and investment as declared by Apec leaders in Bogor. To do so, they have been using individual action plans and collective action plans, to allow member economies flexibility in realizing the Bogor goals, due to the differences in the level of economic development among them.

Since the 1980s, Taiwan has been pursuing policies of economic internationalization and liberalization. After Jan. 1, 1990, when we began the process of applying for accession to the World Trade Organization, the pace of our economic internationalization and liberalization accelerated significantly. By the time that Taiwan formally became a member of the WTO on Jan. 1, 2002, our economic and trade laws conformed to the WTO transparency principles, and the degree to which our market was opened reached that of developed nations.

Taiwan makes every effort to share its experiences in economic and trade growth with other Apec member economies. We participate actively in the meetings of various working groups and subfora within Apec. We have also been organizing seminars and symposia on special topics on economics and trade, in which experts and officials from all member economies have shared experiences and fostered cooperation. Through the years, Taiwan has earned broad approval among member economies for playing an important role in the areas of small and medium enterprises, the digital economy and energy issues.

In recent years, Apec has gradually moved beyond discussing purely economic cooperation issues to include issues that may affect economic development. Taiwan also welcomes discussion with other Apec member economies on urgent issues affecting economic security and development such as fighting terrorism, SARS and so on. Even though many disparities exist among Apec member economies today, Taiwan is willing to work diligently in partnership with other Apec member economies to build a prosperous future for our region.

—YI-FU LIN,
minister of economic affairs,
Taiwan, c/o Taipei Economic & Cultural Office
in the Philippines, 2/F Low Rise Tower,
Pacific Star Building,
Gil Puyat Avenue cor. Makati Avenue,
Makati City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GMA hailed for pushing regional trade

BAGUIO CITY—Activists, who frequently criticize President Macapagal-Arroyo, gave her an indirect compliment this week for supporting "a more manageable" free trade bloc among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

"We see the benefits of a regional trade liberalization bloc ... because developed economies can support less developed economies (like the Philippines') in a smaller trade region," said Joan Carling, chair of the militant Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA).

The CPA had been supporting the region's farmers, who led protests in 2001 and 2002 against the unabated importation of salad vegetables from Europe and China.

But the CPA said its support for Asean free trade is guarded following US President George W. Bush's state visit last Saturday.

"We don't know what buttons (Bush) will push (once he speaks before the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit) in Bangkok," Carling said. Both Ms Macapagal and Bush attended yesterday's Apec conference, which began on Monday.

Carling said activists are relying on the government's official position at Apec to support "fair trade, instead of free trade."

She said pronouncements made last weekend by Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo supported the Asean free trade bloc despite criticism hurled by Bush on Saturday.

"Lorenzo said on television that Bush opened up by saying a regional free trade bloc was a wrong decision, but he said (Ms Macapagal) defended her decision to support the Asean trade bloc," Carling said.

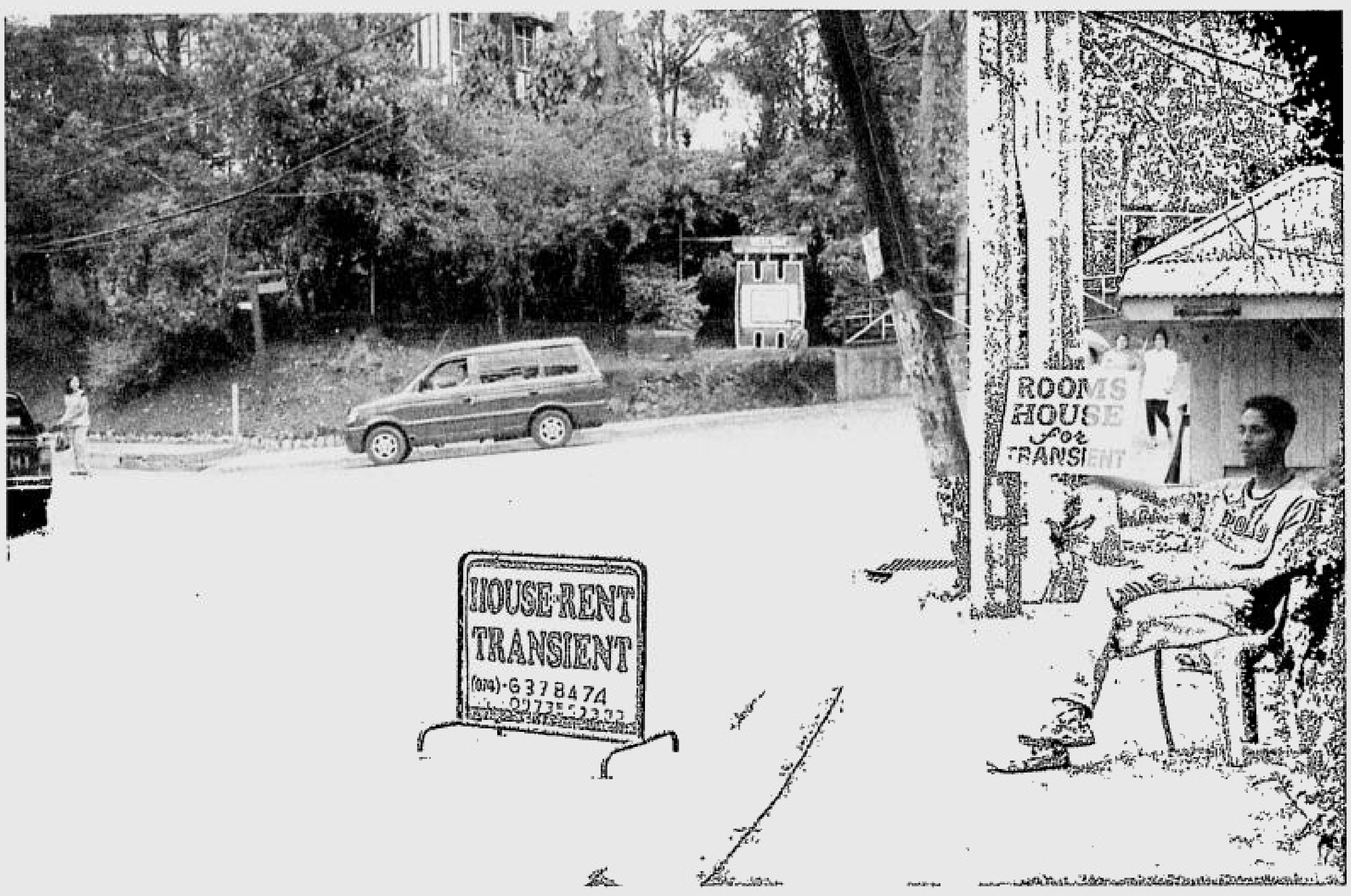
"What is worrisome is that some (Asean) countries indicated that they are open to negotiating with the US (for proposed bilateral trade). That is expected. Countries like Thailand rely on huge exports to the US," she said.

Bush, Carling said, is prepared to map out US bilateral agreements with Asia because this is a huge market they cannot allow to let go after the collapse of the 5th World Trade Organization ministerial conference in Cancun, Mexico last month.

Developing countries from Latin America and Asia objected to US, European and Japanese proposals at Cancun to further alter the rules governing global trade.

Carling said activists see more logic in bilateral agreements among Asean member-countries instead of developing new deals with the US.

She said agriculture had been the best barometer for the destructive cost of free trade on the scale developed by the WTO. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



PREPARATION
Signs announcing rooms and houses for rent for transients start to mushroom around Baguio City as the country's summer capital starts to prepare for the influx of visitors during one of its peak seasons which is not summer—the Christmas holidays. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON

Bicol's most wanted man nabbed in Laguna

CABUYAO, Laguna—A former member of an elite military squad, who became the most wanted criminal in the Bicol Region after killing a paramilitary man in Camarines Sur last year, was arrested over the weekend in this town.

Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal said members of the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division headed by Supt. Manuel Barcena had conducted surveillance operations on suspect Felix San Isidro, 37, a discharged corporal of the First Scout Ranger Regiment, for months before his arrest on Sunday afternoon inside the Mabuhay City Subdivision in Barangay Mamatid.

Caringal said the ex-military man had gone into hiding after being implicated as the principal suspect in the murder of Larry Camu, a member of the Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Unit, in Calabanga, Camarines Sur early last year.

Police disclosed that the suspect was able to avoid suspicions about his identity after using different names and aliases.

San Isidro was even employed as the chief security of the Superstar Security Agency based in Laguna and had also rented a house inside the subdivision where he was arrested, Caringal said.

Barcena said the suspect was arrested on the strength of an arrest warrant issued by Judge Freddie Balonzo of the Regional Trial Court Branch in Calabanga.

Caringal said the operation against San Isidro was a clear warning to criminal elements.

He reiterated that Calabarzon is "not a safe place for criminal elements who are trying to evade arrest."

"I hope they (criminals) got the message clearly. If they are planning to use the region as their hiding place, they better think twice. There's no safe place for them here," Caringal warned.

He noted that since March, the Calabarzon police have arrested over 30 most-wanted persons in different provinces and towns in the region.

The arrest came after Cavite police apprehended another most-wanted man, who had been hiding for almost 20 years, in Trece Martires City last Friday.

Caringal said Rosario, Cavite police nabbed murder suspect Jose Reaño, 41, who had been convicted for the killing of Danilo Tialengco in 1984. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Slain farmer's wife sues Army officers for murder

BAGUIO CITY—An Army lieutenant and his men were charged with murder in connection with the killing of a farmer in what the military claimed was an encounter with a band of New People's Army rebels in Bontoc, Mt. Province, in August this year.

In a murder complaint filed with the regional trial court in Bontoc, Marilyn Masun-ay Chadya-as said 2nd Lt. Edward Sia-ed and members of the Army's 54th Infantry Battalion's Bravo and Charlie platoons killed her husband, Rolando Chadya-as, 42, a member of the Belwang tribe in Sadanga, Mt. Province.

The military claimed Chadya-as, also known as Etfew, was a suspected NPA rebel and was killed in a legitimate encounter with members of the 54th Infantry Battalion on Aug. 5.

But Marilyn denied that her husband was an NPA member. She said her husband went to his *kaingin* in Bontoc to watch his crops on Aug. 4.

"My husband was a plain civilian ... and a family man with eight children," she said in her complaint. "He was negative of powder burns and could not have fought against the elements of the Bravo and Charlie platoons under 2nd Lt. Edward Sia-ed."

Marilyn said her husband could have been tortured before he was killed, as shown by the nature, location and number of wounds suffered by her husband.

Randy Kinaud, spokesperson of Dinteg-Cordillera Human Rights Organization, decried the slow action of the prosecutor's office in filing the murder complaint.

"The family and the elders are disappointed with our justice system. I think they are starting to think of their own justice procedure," Kinaud told the INQUIRER.

Lt. Col. Preme Monta, Northern Luzon Command spokesperson, said they welcomed the filing of the charges. He said they were standing by the military report that Chadya-as was an NPA rebel who was killed in a legitimate encounter.

Earlier, residents of Barangays Mainit and Guinaang in Bontoc, Barangay Belwang in Sadanga, and some villages in Sagada and Besao asked provincial and military officials to pull out the soldiers from their villages because, they said, they had been living under "a state of fear."

They said military operations and bombings on suspected lairs of NPA rebels had prevented them from harvesting their rice and other crops. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Ex-reb leads co-ops' rehab

MEXICO, Pampanga—A former head of the Communist Party of the Philippines has been named head of a team tasked with reviving three debt-strapped and graft-ridden electric cooperatives servicing 70 percent of households in the province.

Rodolfo Salas, popularly known as Commander Bilog, on Monday met 1,500 employees of the Pampanga Electric Cooperative (Pelco) I in Mexico, II in Guagua and III in Apalit to formalize the start of the operations of the Pelco central management and support team.

"This is no takeover. We came to assist," he told employees of Pelco I here.

As the team's chair and executive officer, he said his thrusts were to "provide honest and strong leadership and weed it of flagrant corruption with the support of the employees' unions and consumers."

He assumed the post after six consultations with the unions and consumers groups representing 203,774 households in Pampanga.

Fr. Francisco Silva, head of the National Electrification Administration, said the rehabilitation plan came after the three cooperatives failed to meet the survival targets set in two phases.

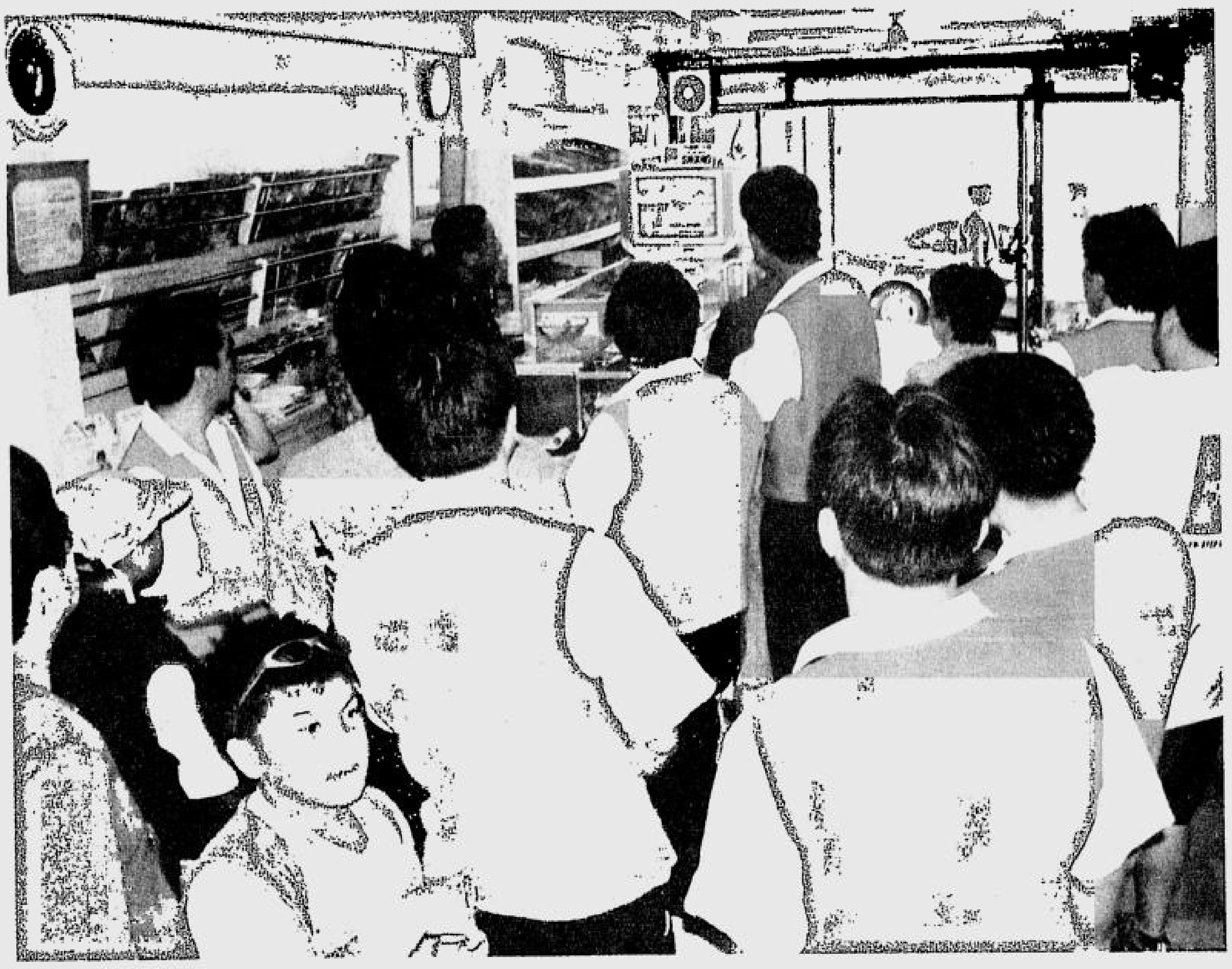
The accumulated losses of Pelco I, II and III had reached P249.8 million, P619.3 million and P127.8 million, respectively as of June this year.

NEA reports said the current accounts of Pelco I, II and III with their supplier, the National Power Corp., totaled P36.5 million, P168.6 million and P188.2 million, respectively.

High systems losses exceeding the 14-percent cap and traced to pilferage and defective facilities had bled these cooperatives of at least P90.5 million last June.

The Pelcos are the "worst" among the 17 debt-strapped cooperatives in the country, according to Silva.

Other members of the rescue team are lawyer John Joseph Magtuloy, Oliver Kintanar and Bienvenida Tongol. Edicio de la Torre, Edgardo Piamonte, Loreto Marcelino and representatives of the Napocor and National Transmission Corp. comprise the support team. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



TOOTS SOBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON

PRIME TIME
Television sets became magnets for customers of commercial establishments in Baguio City, like this restaurant, when the establishment owners decided to tune in their sets to the recent eight-hour visit of US President George W. Bush.

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ROUNDUP

Soldier slain in attack

CAMP MELCHOR DE LA CRUZ, Isabela—An Army soldier was killed while another was wounded when suspected communist rebels attacked an Army unit in Echague town on Tuesday. The Army's 5th Infantry Division's civil affairs unit identified the slain soldier as Sgt. Jaime Tumamao Jr. The wounded, Pfc. William Sobrepena, was taken to the Camp Melchor de la Cruz Hospital in Echague. The soldiers came from Barangay Villa Rey where they conducted a civil-military operation. Military reports said members of the New People's Army's Benito Tesorio Front operating in southern Isabela were behind the attack. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Reb symphathizers yield

CAMP MELCHOR DELA CRUZ, Isabela—At least 75 suspected sympathizers of the New People's Army in Echague town surrendered to Army officials and turned over 13 firearms on Tuesday. Military reports said the group was composed of leaders and members of Samahang Pinagkakaisang Magsasaka ng Mabbayad and was led by Zoelo Simangan, head of the farmers' organization and concurrent chief tanod (village guard) of Mabbayad. Lt. Col. Preme Monta, information officer of the Army's Northern Luzon Command, said the group is being eyed by the NPA rebels in Isabela "to fully infiltrate and manipulate for their own cause." Madonna Castillo, the group's secretary general, however, denied they were NPA supporters. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Youth detention center

BAGUIO CITY—The city government has allocated P4 million for the construction of a separate detention center for youth offenders. Vice Mayor Betty Lourdes Tabanda said a separate detention center for juvenile offenders is needed because minors, although kept in a separate facility, are in the same jail compound where adults are detained. Tabanda said they also need to build a Treatment and Rehabilitation Center (TRC) due to the increasing number of minors who are caught for illegal drug use and who need rehabilitation in the city. *Rod Bansag, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

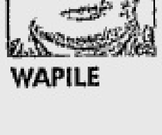
Ban vs bird hunting

IBA, Zambales—The provincial board of Zambales on Monday approved a municipal ordinance regulating the catching and hunting of indigenous and migratory birds in the province. The ordinance was adopted by the municipal council of San Narciso to stop indiscriminate catching and hunting of quail, *tikling, bottot, garrique, sibbid* and snipes found in the town. The ordinance prohibits the hunting of these migratory birds from September to January. It also bans the hunting and catching of these birds in places where rice plants have not been harvested yet. These birds feed on worms and insects harmful to vegetation particularly rice plants, which help maintain the production of harvest. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Alert on car theft

BAGUIO CITY—Police officials warned residents and tourists on the increasing number of car theft incidents here, following the reported theft of three vehicles this month. Insp. Clint Bayacsan of the Baguio police noted the possible presence of a car theft syndicate in the city after two Mitsubishi L300 vans and a Toyota Tamaraw FX were stolen here from Oct. 4 to 13. *Rod Bansag, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 527 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Re-selling America's cowboy to Baguio City

By Vincent Cabreza and Jovelyn Reyes
Baguio City

IT IS IRONIC that the only American city built in this country by the American colonial government never translated to a strapping American business in Baguio City.

Of course, America is in every Filipino's psyche these days, with McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken controlling almost every street corner here.

But between 1909, when Baguio was officially built, and 1978, the business of selling America to the city's native inhabitants had not been easy, said Ibaloi historian Eufronio Pungayan.

Pungayan, a former country-western pop singer, said America had been influential in developing the country-western ethic of Baguio and Benguet.

The city had developed a reputation in Metro Manila for its honky-tonk joints and its side street bumpkin taverns.

Baguio was also home to some of the hardy singing Benguet cowboys, complete with ten-gallon hats and thigh-high leather boots, as they toured the city astride genuine horses.

But the businesses that supported this lifestyle had always been small and barely grew out of their peak in 1979, Pungayan said.

There are efforts at reviving the lifestyle today, with fashion designer Grael Cawed pushing new cowboy outfits for women and country-western singers like Conrad Marzan pushing new country western albums.

Upward climb

Yet despite the hype that accompanied the recent state visit of US President George W. Bush, an unabashed Texan cowboy, these entrepreneurs admit that this unique industry will have to brave an upward climb.

The Baguio boots' trade is a good barometer of that climb. Before 1980, the city had more than 300 shoemakers, who specialized in manufacturing cowboy boots, said Fema Galaw-ey, a 38-year-old shoemaker.

At present, she said, 10 of them remain active. Unfortunately, these shoemakers have been demoted to repairing shoes, instead.

Blame that on America, Pungayan said. The business environment between 1909 and 1936 was dominated by Chinese and Japanese immigrants who were hired to build Kennon Road in 1901.

"You would see the whole line of small businesses on Session Road and the local market. They were Chinese, involved in small *sari-sari* store trade with the Ibalois. No Americans set up their own enterprises. They stayed apart from the natives," Pungayan said.

"The Americans were apparently not that elusive. They were welcomed by the Ibalois and there was hardly any bad blood between us."

The Americans concentrated on developing the mining industry, Pungayan said. Benguet Corp., the first Philippine mine, was set up in Itogon, Benguet, by three American expatriates led by Metcalfe Clarke in 1903.

Baguio benefited indirectly from the gold rush toward the end of 1920 and 1930 by offering miners a bustling service town.

"Generally, we can trace the evolution of (a cowboy) culture back to 1930, when the mining business boomed. Americans were all over the region. At that time, (the indigenous communities) would do everything in eagerness to get gold," Pungayan said.

With American-mined gold came leather. Ibalois, Kalanguyas and Kankanaeys fancied the icons of the American wild west because of the black-and-white movies and the phonograph music that were imported by American expatriates.

"The Ibalois already had their own horse culture, long before the Americans showed up with theirs," Pungayan said. "Until now, the Ibalois have the horse involved in their rituals, and when a rich man dies, his horse comes along for the ride. We also have our own lasso and our games involved horses."

Pungayan said it was their own culture that attracted the Ibalois to the American Wild West.

In effect, the businesses that grew out of the cowboy mythology in the Cordillera fed the Ibaloi's own horse culture, and not the American icons, he said.

Cowboy business

The most visible vestige of a cowboy business to date is the lucrative horse riding pavilions at Wright Park and near the Baguio Country Club. The horses, many descendants of imported race breeds, attract visitors every summer.

Visitors shell out P120 for an hour's ride through the remaining pine canopies of Baguio. Pony boys who tend to the horses hire themselves out as guides for an additional P50.

But horse owners complain that a sprawling urban growth has reduced the trails available to horses. The city government has also been upset about the sanitation around horse trails.

For Rogelio Codangon, the horse-for-rent trade is nearing its end. He said they used to earn more than P5,000 a day during peak holidays "*pero ngayon hirap na nga yung isang libo e* (but these

RE-SELLING/ A21

THESE women model the cowboy designs of Grael Cawed, who is marketing the outfits to a new generation in Baguio. EV ESPIRITU

Behn Cervantes and his inimitable outreach

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

IN A JUST world, theater director Behn Cervantes will see to it that the law requires every congressman and senator to live along the railroad tracks for a month, so that these public officials can get a firsthand experience on how squatters manage to survive.

He still rages against "exploitative politicians who know how to use the system. We don't. It doesn't even cross our minds. The political scene makes me angry. The strongest man would have been a woman—Haydee Yorac. Now she's the kind of President we need."

When not using his "wicked tongue" to lash out at *trapos* (traditional politicians), Cervantes, who resigned in a huff as a professor at the University of the Philippines in 1988 to protest the bureaucratic move to kick out another theater stalwart, Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero, from the university housing ("where's the humanity?"), goes to different provinces and cities on a personal outreach program. He has been to Tacloban, Cebu and Baguio cities, Masbate and Hong Kong to share his skills.

Recently he trained and directed actors at the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, in 14 performances of "Pagbibinyag sa Apoy at Dugo," Dr. Fulgencio Soriano's translation of dramatist Amelia Lapeña Bonifacio's "Walking Canes and Fans." This is the story of an *ilustrado* family during the time of the Katipunan.

Cervantes identified with the son, a secret Katipunero, who is found out during a wedding party when he debates with a friar. The mother's concern later turns to commitment when she offers her jewelry for the revolution's cause.

Even if he is with the board of trustees of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, he does not approve of the practice of sending Manila's cultural surplus to the provinces. "I still feel that the CCP is much too big for the country. What we should have built are smaller regional cultural centers," he said.

He continued: "Exporting Manila's culture can give the wrong values. It's here today, gone tomorrow. I've told the board, there are so many of us semi-retired teachers. What's two to three weeks of our lives if we go to hardship posts?

CERVANTES FILE PHOTO

This comes out cheaper than bringing in 40 people from Manila and charging the costs to local viewers."

His stint at the CLSU proved his point. Stage performances in the city usually run three days max. This time, the production had 14, proving that Cervantes' time was worth it.

The play would have 16 more reruns at CLSU next month as Gov. Tomas Joson III was reportedly pleased with it and wanted it shown to as many public school children as possible.

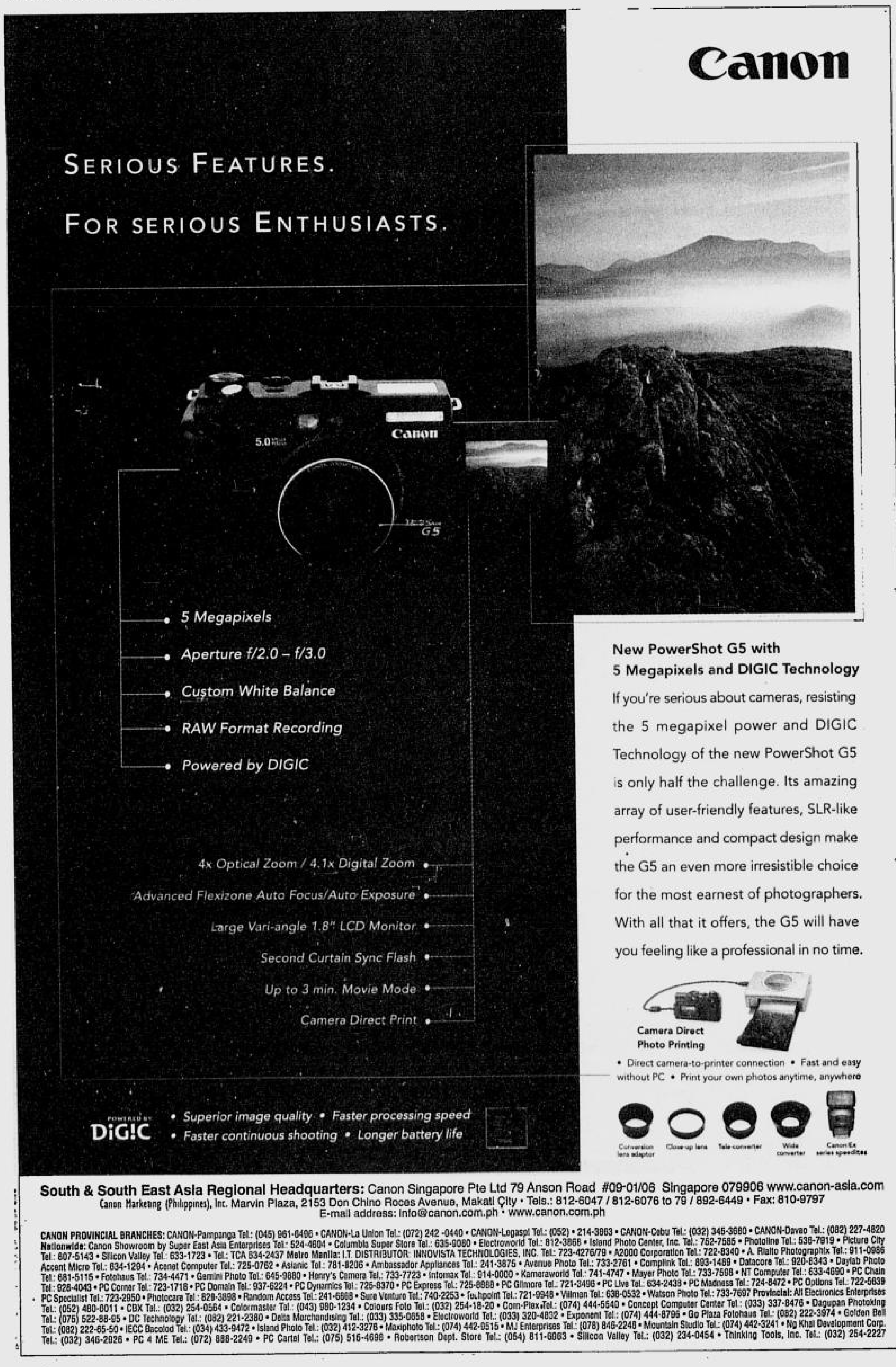
Cervantes said: "I believe in long runs. You just become better. The actors learn quickly. They use their bodies and brains to react during performances. I've realized that in an academic setting, those interested, they come. Those who don't have the necessary skills can learn the craft and use it for teaching afterwards. My hope is that I have turned artists out of the performers."

This thinking, feeling, committed director known for his bad temper "will forgive mistakes—that's human. But actors who don't give their all, who are like wet matchsticks who just don't light up, well, they brought it on themselves. I must know that I pulled out everything, that you could bare yourself. I can even joke about my gayness to get them to relax. I show the newcomers, the thespians that art is based on discipline," he said.

Some people's misconception about acting or *arte* is that it's only playing around. Cervantes corrected this, "It's not *pa*-drama or *kunwari*. You're forcing them to bring out the truth. This requires hard work."

He admitted that he throws less chairs and shoes directly at actors. What he hates is when actors don't improve or develop themselves. "It's like a bad reception on the radio. I hate it when I come back the next day after I left you at 75 percent the day before,

CERVANTES/ A21



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Beauty pageant showcases Abel Iloco

This native woven cloth has come a long way from the bedroom to the catwalk

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur

ABEL ILOCO (loom weaving) has come a long way from the bedroom to the catwalk. The native woven cloth is traditionally used as material for blankets, but through the years, it has been used variously as wall decor, divider and furniture cover.

The Abel Iloco, however, made a debut in the international beauty pageant scene as 23 contestants of the Miss Asia Pacific 2003 wore the native cloth through designs rendered by the country's top fashion designers.

Wearing gowns made from the local fabric, the candidates, during the pre-pageant activities held in Ilocos Sur, vied for special awards such as the best in Abel Iloco evening gown, the best Abel Iloco casual wear and the Ilocanos' choice award.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano said Ilocanos should be proud because the province and the Abel Iloco were put in the world fashion map through the pageant.

Savellano and other local officials who graced the contest leg in Vigan City last week also wore Barong Tagalog, shirts and dresses made from Abel Iloco.

The governor said the quality of the Iloco fabric has impressed the pageant's contestants and designers, prompting them to use the fabric during the pageant proper on Oct 26.

"It may be a handmade product but it is at par with other expensive fabrics," Savellano said.

Miss Singapore Celeste Lim bagged the best in Abel Iloco evening gown award, Miss Philippines' Jamie Liz Castillo won the best in Abel Iloco casual wear award and Miss Russia's Tatyana Nikitina was voted as the Ilocanos' choice during the pre-pageant.

Savellano said the provincial government is bent on improving and helping the local loom weaving industry because of its potentials in export and employment generation.

He said the provincial government has shelled out P3 million to fund the pre-pageant and to promote the local tourism industry.

Behn Cervantes...

From page A20

then I have to coach you again to get to 75 percent. I hate tardiness. If somebody is 20 minutes late, multiply that with 54 other cast members who are late, and I tell them, 'Do not waste my time for me. I could've made my confession, gone to heaven, not hell, or I could've had one more orgasm during all that time.'"

Analyn Vijano, who is taking her masters in languages and literature at CLSU and served as stage manager during the "Pagbibinyag..." performances, said Cervantes intimidated the students in the beginning.

"We were not used to his screaming. We were scared. Later, we all realized that it was his form of motivating us to do better. Now, we miss him," she said.

Re-selling...

From page A20

days, it is difficult to earn just P1,000)."

These pony boys still groove on cowboy music, another aspect of the pseudo-American culture that used to do brisk business in Baguio between 1968 and 1989.

Baguio used to have 14 lively bars and folk houses, which featured live country-western music. The karaoke bars gradually displaced these cowboy joints between 1990 and 1999, according to the city business licensing office.

Pungayan said the cowboy bars used to capitalize on homegrown cowboy music, which saw its heyday between 1979 and 1986. Baguio country-western singers used to sell albums of their compositions in local record shops.

More than 30 Baguio-based musicians recorded their own albums in that period, providing two recording studios—Abatan Records and Tukokan Records—their own brisk business. But few artists have been producing their own albums since then.

These days, only the AM radio station dzWT continues to play country-western tunes for a largely Benguet audience.

The Igorot's affinity with the cowboy is already fueling a renaissance of American country-western lifestyles, said Cawed, a Baguio stylist.

"The music is making some sort of comeback (because of the popularity of artists Jewel and Leann Rhimes). This music is on (the) MTV (channel) and that is helping the new youngsters get a taste of the culture," she said.

Cawed said her own cowboy suits have sold well to young professionals, no thanks to Bush or his state visit.

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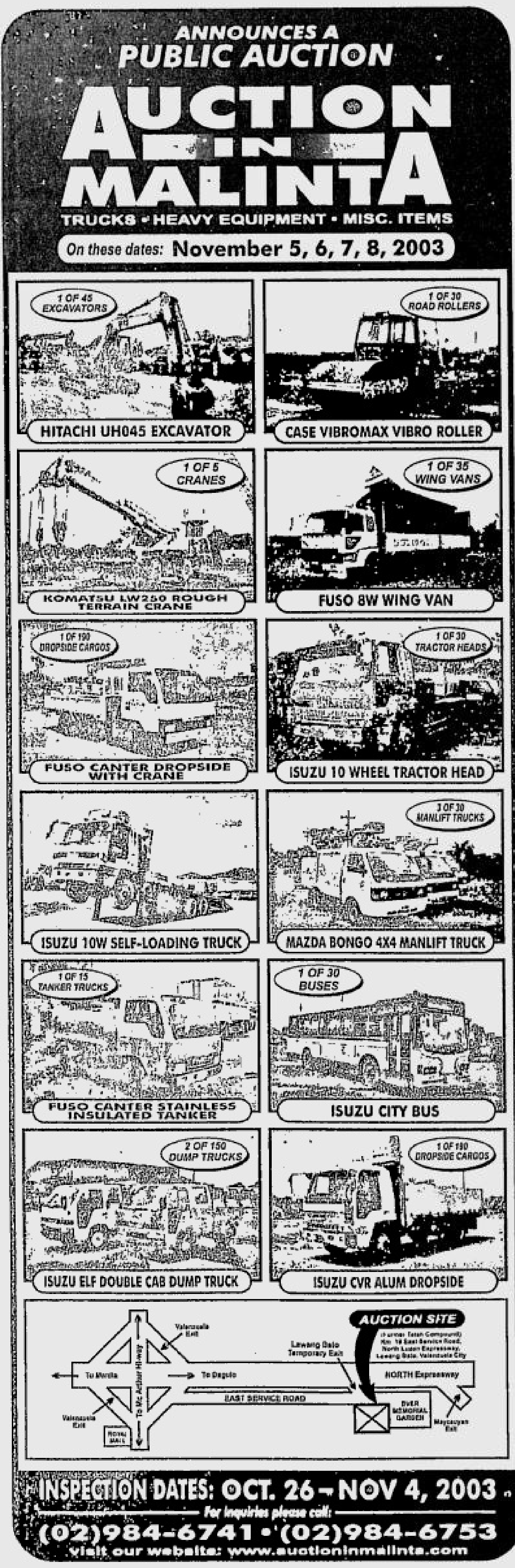

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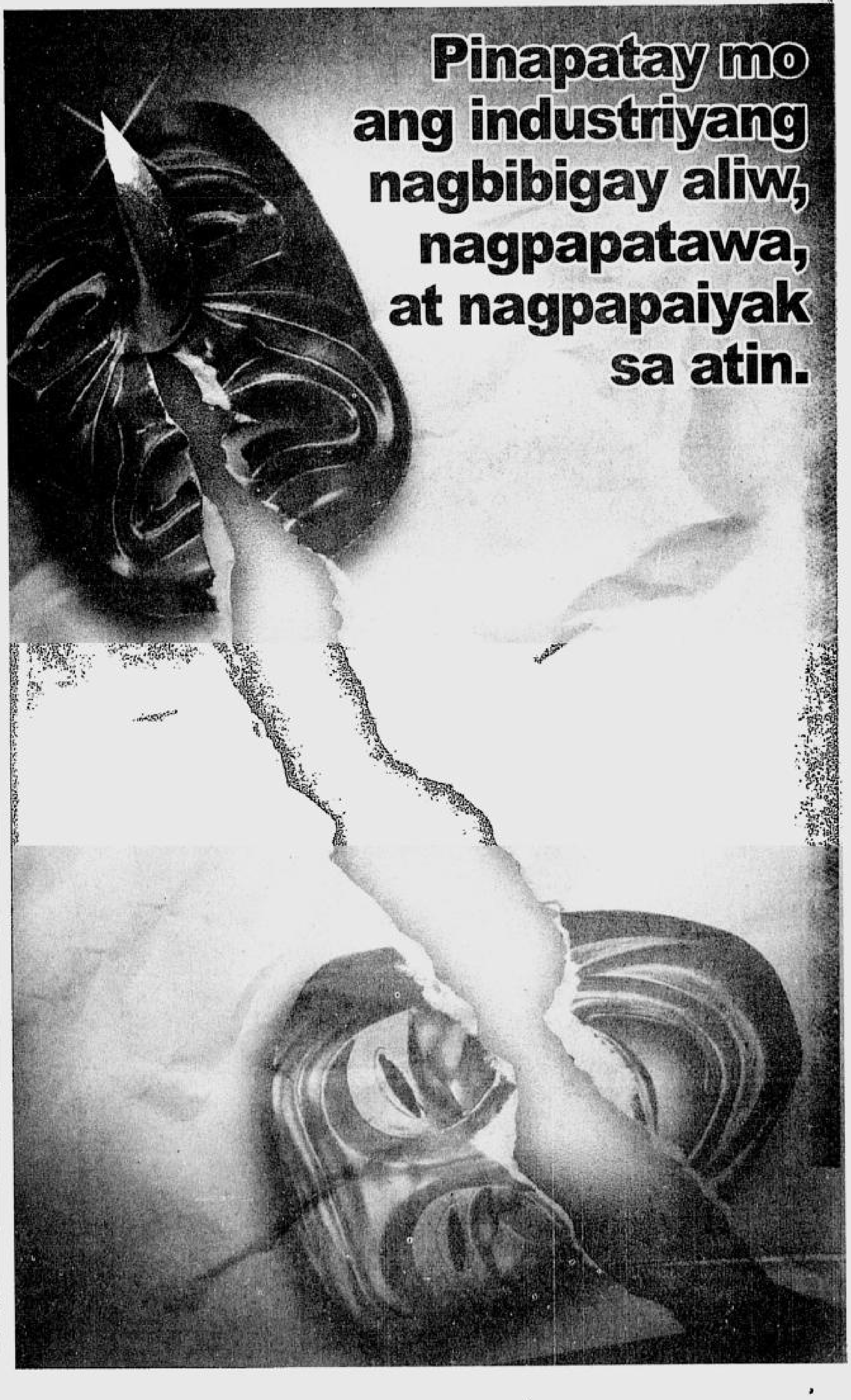

Pinapatay mo ang industriyang nagbibigay aliw, nagpapatawa, at nagpapaiyak sa atin.

In Camanava, 4 fires in 3 days

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

MORE than P10 million in property was lost in a fire yesterday in Valenzuela City.

Two warehouse employees were injured in the fire that hit Bismarck Industrial Supply owned by a Robert Peñaflor.

The fire was the fourth such incident to hit northern Metro Manila in three days.

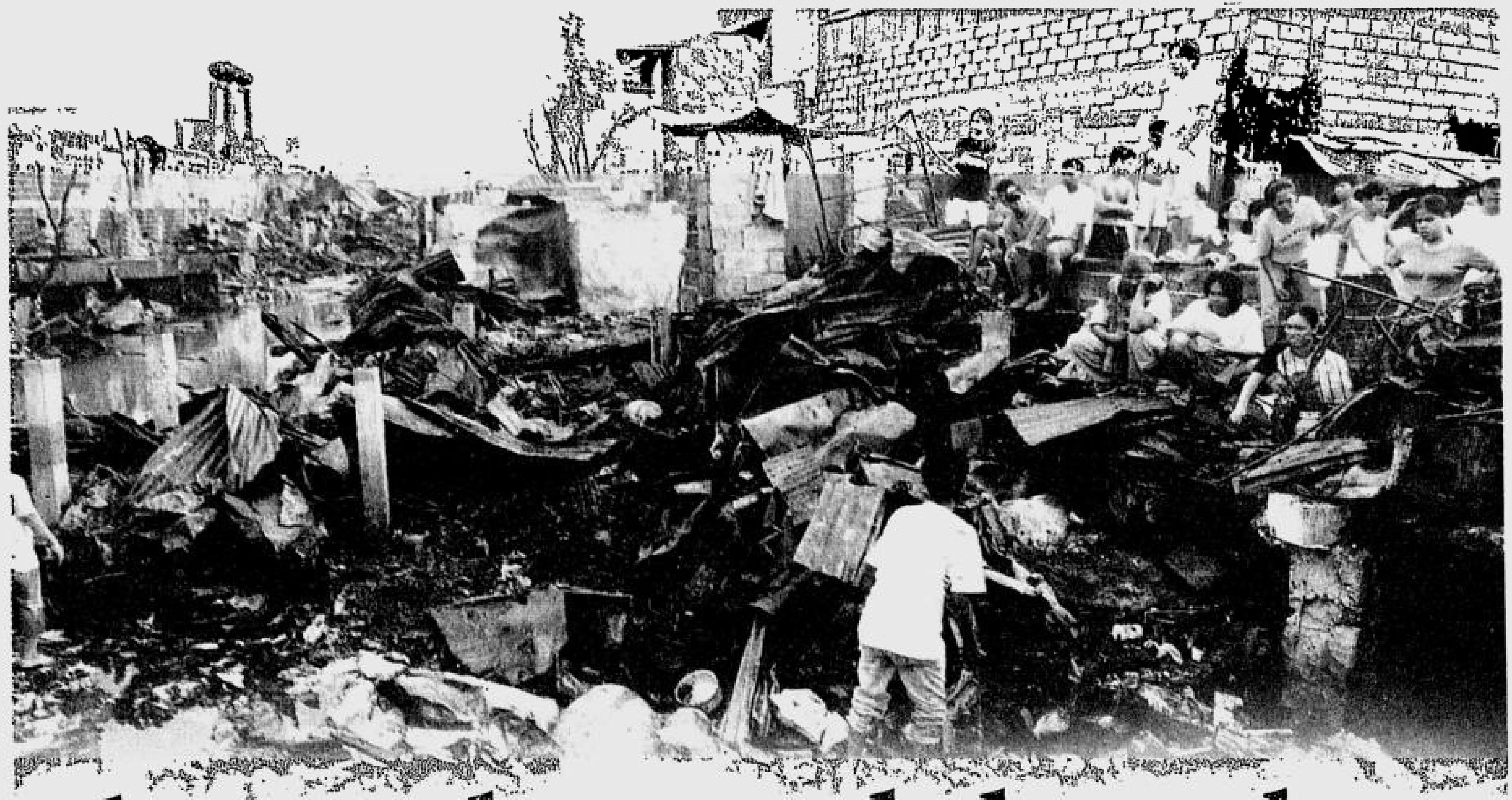
The fire began at 9:38 a.m. yesterday, after an explosion was heard from the back of the warehouse on J.B. Juan Street, Ugong, Valenzuela, said F02 Dante Onida of the Valenzuela City Fire Station.

Two of Bismarck's employees were hurt—Eddieboy Borris, 24 and Jerome Guidanes, 23. They were brought to the Valenzuela City General Hospital for treatment. Firefighters had the fire under control by 11:30 a.m.

The storehouse of Sterling Ace Tire Supply on Sunday caught fire at 12:50 p.m.

At 12:05 a.m. Monday, another fire hit Duracom Plastics (Polin Trading) in Caloocan.

At 9 a.m. the same day, a second fire broke out in Caloocan.



Pasay fire leaves thousands homeless

By Christine Paita and Margaux Ortiz

A COUPLE'S fight sparked a fire that lasted eight hours and left more than 1,000 families homeless in four barangays in the cities of Pasay and Makati Monday night.

According to the Pasay City Bureau of Fire Protection, the fire also razed the Batangas Laguna Tayabas Bus Company (BLTBC) terminal on Edsa, destroying 29 luxury cars and 3 buses that were all parked in the company garage.

Among the cars destroyed were four Ferrari sports cars, five Mercedes Benz units and a Porsche, all reportedly owned by BLTBC heir and racer Mike Potenciano, said SFO3 Cesar Domingo of the Pasay City Fire Department.

The fire crossed the city boundary to Makati where 20 shanties and 3 houses in Barangay Bangkal were destroyed, said Supt. Arsenio Tabajonda, Makati fire chief.

Makati firemen were able to stop the progress of the fire on A. Bonifacio Street.

Tabajonda said that damages due to the fire, which he placed at around P1 million, were compounded by irate Pasay residents who threw rocks at the Simpao Motor Shop, where vintage luxury cars are repaired:

He said residents of nearby E. Rodriguez Extension in Pasay were upset because they thought the firemen were "prioritizing" buildings on Bonifacio Street.

"They have to understand that we had to select the property we had to protect, those which could still be saved," Tabajonda said.

He added that the houses on E. Rodriguez Street were already burning "beyond salvation" when the firemen arrived.

Tabajonda said that while firemen were battling the blaze inside the repair shop, the residents began throwing rocks, which damaged the the luxury vehicles.

According to Supt. Bobby Baruelo, Pasay City fire marshal, the fire started at around 7:30 a.m., when Ramonito Alavera threw an oil lamp at his wife while they were fighting inside their house in Barangay 143.

The fire spread to Barangay 144 and Barangay 137, and razed the BLTBC terminal on Edsa.

The BLTBC terminal was already foreclosed by a bank, fire investigators said.

SFO3 Domingo pegged property damage in the Pasay fire at P15 million.

He added that the figure does not include the cost of the 29 luxury cars and three buses that were destroyed in the BLTB compound.

Firemen from Quezon City, Parañaque, Las Piñas and the Chinese-Filipino Fire Volunteers Brigade were on the scene at around 8 p.m.

Baruelo said they put out the fire at around 3:30 a.m. and continued to clear the area until 4 a.m., when they had to leave to refill the firetrucks with water and let the men eat.

But the fire began again at around 5 a.m. The firemen went back to the scene to find the fire had spread to the BLTB terminal.

Some of the residents complained that the firefighters came too late.

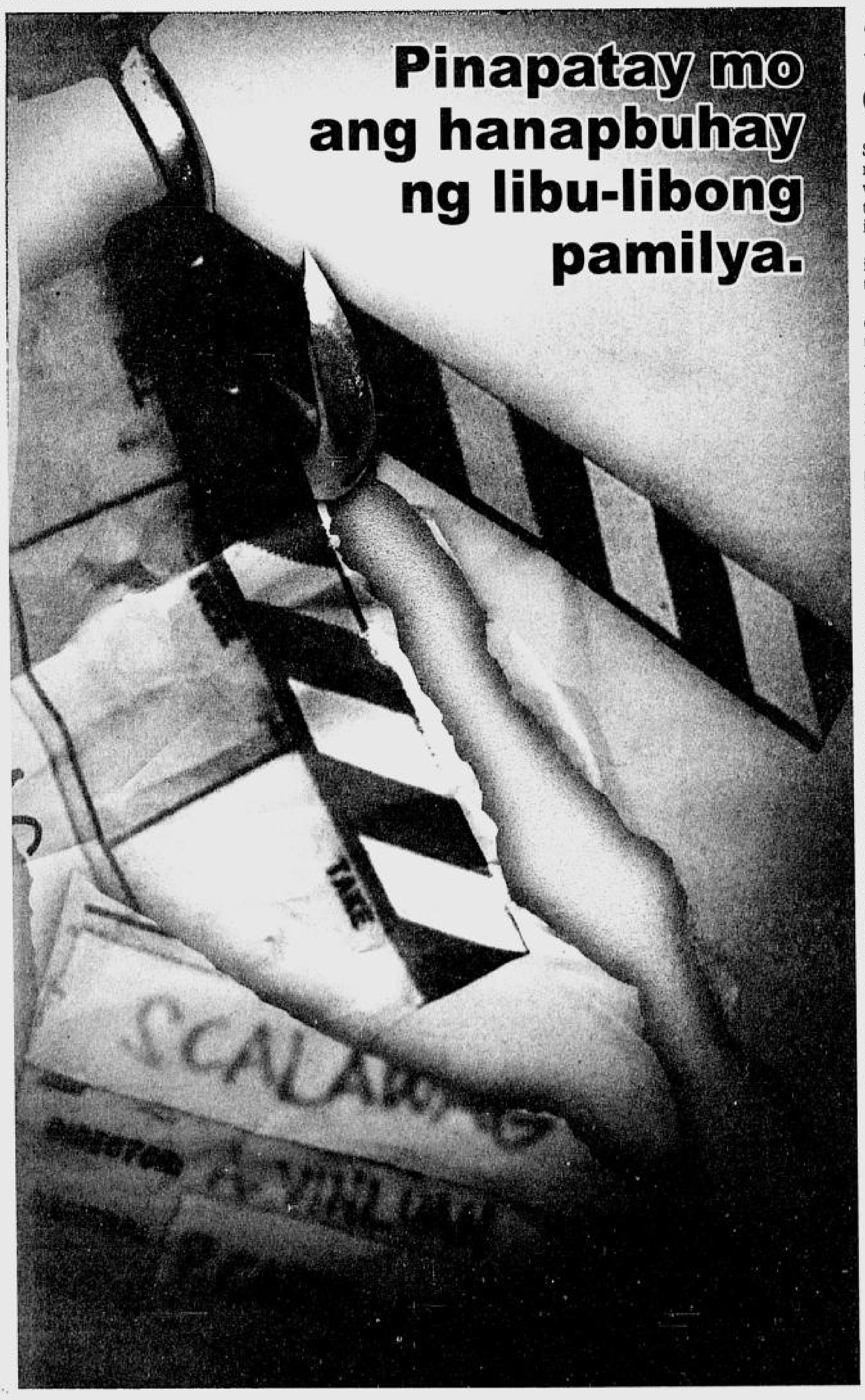
"There were a lot of firefighters, yet they were not able to stop the fire from spreading," said Mark Rigor of Barangay 143.

Rigor said he heard explosions, which he thought were caused by LPG tanks.

Some of the victims sought shelter under the flyover on Edsa with their belongings.

They were eventually transferred to the BLTB terminal, where the City Social Welfare Department and Health Department had set up a relief center providing food and medicine.

OVER a thousand families were forced to evacuate their burning homes and seek shelter by the Metrorail transit station on Edsa. On top, aftermath of the fire. ERIK ARAZAS


Pinapatay mo ang hanapbuhay ng libu-libong pamilya.
TAKE

50 families return to shanty community in Batasan

SOME of the families whose houses were razed as part of the preparation for the state visit of US President George Bush have returned to where their shanties used to stand in Batasan, Quezon City.

Some 200 squatter families were affected in the clearing operation about a week before the state visit.

The families were told that Mr. Bush was coming. Government workers then bulldozed their shanties and gave each of the evicted family P10,000 as compensation.

According to Lerma Centeno, 29, the families were loaded into trucks and carried off to a site in San Mateo—only to find out that they were not welcome there.

"The demolition crew who took us there just threw our things on the pavement and immediately left to get another batch of families from the demolition site," Centeno said.

The families were forced to return to Batasan, claiming that Rizal officials have turned them away because they were not notified of the relocation.

The children were traumatized by the way government workers carried out the demolition.

Lenny Salvador, 10, said she would not to go back to Batasan, adding that the place only brings back bad memories of armed men poking a gun at them while tearing down their shanty.

"But do we have a choice? We have nowhere to go," Salvador said in Filipino. *Tina Santos*

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Theft with a twist

THIEVES used to be spontaneous. Now, they carefully plan and script their capers.

On Oct. 14, the 17-year-old son of an INQUIRER employee was on his way home when two men cornered him in Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

"They told me I looked like the guy they were looking for, who had a fight with one of the men's sister," said the youth, who refused to be named.

The men told him to go with them to the barangay hall to clear up matters. But the victim, scared, refused to go.

The suspects then gained the youth's trust, asked him to leave his cell phone to one of the suspects and made to wait outside San Beda Village on Visayas Ave.

The suspects agreed. The youth never saw them again.

The drama was over. Time for it to take place elsewhere.
Jocelyn Uy

Woman gets death for hubby's slay

By Tina Santos

A WOMAN was meted the death penalty by a Quezon City Regional Trial Court yesterday after she was found guilty of killing her estranged husband almost three years ago.

RTC Branch 76 Judge Monina Zenarosa sentenced Flordeliza Ladores-Suerte Felipe, 39, of Barangay 1, Poblacion, Penaranda, Nueva Ecija, to die by lethal injection and to pay P1.1 million to the heirs of Ullyses Suerte Felipe, 38, a Meralco lineman.

In her decision, Zenarosa found sufficient evidence to convict the accused of parricide for conniving with two unidentified men in killing her estranged husband on Dec. 13, 2000.

Court records showed that Ulysses had just parked his Meralco van along Madeleine Street, Parkway Village, Quezon City when Flordeliza arrived and boarded his vehicle.

A few moments later, Flordeliza alighted from the car and from thereon, two unidentified gunman arrived and peppered Ullyses with bullets.

The victim, who agreed to meet his estranged wife along Madeleine Street, died on the spot from multiple gunshot wounds in his body.

The victim's sister, Editha Suerte-Felipe, believed the killing of her brother had something to do with the P3 million worth of benefits Flordeliza and their three children would get from Meralco when he dies. This was apart from the monthly pension from SSS and insurance companies.

AYALA Land Inc. officials Fernando Zobel de Ayala and Francico Licuanan III (right) with Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus (center) after signing a memorandum of agreement Tuesday on Ayala's donation of additional schoolhouses.

Additional rooms for 7 schools

By Margaux Ortiz

STUDENTS in selected schools all over the country have something to be excited about.

Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) yesterday committed to donate additional schoolhouses for seven public elementary schools.

Ayala Land officials led by chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala and president Francisco Licuanan III signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Department of Education (DepEd) through Secretary Edilberto de Jesus at the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center to formalize the commitment.

According to Ayala Land executive vice president Mercedita Nolledo, ALI will supply each three-classroom schoolhouse with a toilet, furnish it with tables and chairs, and take care of the site's landscaping.

The beneficiary schools are Ususan Elementary School in Taguig; Pasong Tamo Elementary School in Quezon City; Maunong Elementary School in Calamba City; Inchican Elementary School in Silang, Cavite; Sibugay Elementary School in Cebu City; and Isaias Tapales Elementary School in Antipolo City.

"We consider ourselves part of the community we operate," Nolledo said in a statement.

She added, "Education is one concern of the community, and by sharing in the task of educating the youth, we further strengthen the community."

Nolledo said ALI employees and other volunteers will assist in the completion of the project, especially in landscaping the sites.

De Jesus commended ALI for the Build-A-Schoolhouse project.

He said ALI's endeavor complements the DepEd's own school building program nationwide.

Miriam Katigbak, Ayala Land senior vice president, told the INQUIRER they chose the schools based on four criteria.

She said the schools should be situated in barangays where ALI has major projects.

Katigbak said ALI has the Fort Bonifacio Global City project in Taguig, Ayala Westgroves and Greenfields in the Cavite-Laguna area, and Cebu Business Park in Cebu City.

She also said the selected schools should have an oversupply of students and excess land to build a new building on.

Katigbak added that the construction of the schoolhouses would begin early next month and would be finished in time for the next school year.

Manila cops bitter over promotion

By Leila B. Salaverria

PHILIPPINE National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane left several Manila policemen grumbling and in low spirits yesterday after he said that not all operatives would be eligible for the long-delayed meritorious promotion for the May 1, 2000 defense of Malacañang Palace from rabid protesters.

Instead, those who were ineligible because they have gone through a regular promotion the same year would be given medals.

Ebdane made the statement during his visit to the Western Police District headquarters to commend its members for the tight security in Manila during the eight-hour visit of US President George W. Bush last Saturday.

He also told reporters that his visit to the WPD is part of the president's directive for him to listen to the grievances of the police, and later said the promotion would be taken care of.

But SP02 Antonio Emmanuel, spokesperson for the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association, Inc., said the group is unhappy with Ebdane's announcement about the promotion.

"We were expecting to hear good news, that finally the Manila policemen's efforts would be recognized, but we were disappointed," he told the INQUIRER.

Other policemen interviewed by the INQUIRER said they felt down after hearing Ebdane' statement.

"*Parang ayoko nang magtrabaho. Yung ginagawa mo noon, di naman nirerespeto* (I don't feel like working. It seems like the work I did earlier was not even respected)," said one policeman.

Another policeman was more cynical, saying he did not even try to listen to Ebdane because he knew the Manila policemen would not be listened to anyway.

Emmanuel said that when the brotherhood inquired at the National Police Commission, they were told that they have the right to be promoted for a meritorious act despite having had a regular promotion the same year.

However, the PNP apparently has a different policy, hence the decision to award the "Medalya ng Kagitingan" to those not eligible.

He added that those who were eligible for meritorious promotion are also made to go through "an obstacle course" before being granted what is due them.

METROBRIEFS

Hostage drama

A WOMAN with psychological problems yesterday held hostage her daughter, sister-in-law and two nieces inside their Sta. Ana home for almost three hours. Fortunately, police managed to subdue Adelita Bernardo by wresting from her the broken softdrink bottle which she used to keep Teresa Bernardo, her sister-in-law, and the three young girls at bay. Supt. Clifton Empiso, head of Station 6 of the Western Police District, said that Adelita had been suffering from periodic bouts of mental distress and had in fact been receiving treatment. He added that Adelita's irrational behavior manifests itself whenever she has problems. Yesterday, at about 2:42 a.m., police got a call about the hostage drama and immediately went to the scene. No one was reported injured in the incident. *Leila Salaverria*

Pregnant woman shot

A PREGNANT woman, said to be a police informant, was shot dead by still unidentified suspects Monday night in Quezon City. Police identified the victim only as "Len-Len," who died from a lone gunshot wound in the forehead. She was described to be three to five months pregnant, between 20 and 25 years old, 4'9" in height, sporting a long hair, and clad in avocado-colored sleeveless shirt and white shorts. Police said residents of Artillery corner Fort Santiago Streets, Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City, heard a gunshot around 10:30 p.m. When they checked, they were shocked to find the victim sprawled on the pavement. *Tina Santos*

Cop nabs brod for theft

IT'S ALL in the family. A police officer has arrested his younger brother for allegedly stealing their niece's cell phone in Marikina City. Investigation showed that Daniel Villanueva, 37, visited his niece, Janelyn Orbero, 25, of A. Bonifacio Avenue, Barangay de la Peña, on Monday afternoon. The police said that's where Villanueva took Orbero's Nokia 3650 mobile phone. After learning of the theft, a brother who lives with Orbero, Cesar, tried but failed to go after Daniel, the police said. Later that day, Cesar summoned his brother, SP02 Joel Villanueva of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, for help. The police officer arrested the suspect in a house in Makati City. Daniel, who is being held at the city jail, had denied stealing the phone. *Luige del Puerto*

Gibson Tan; 23

GIBSON Cyrus Tan died yesterday at the age of 23. He is survived by his father Amado, mother Estela Cokue, brother Chester Graham, and sister Ellis Cheryl. His remains lie in state at the Faith Chapel of Arlington Memorial Chapels on G. Araneta Avenue, Sta. Mesa, Manila. Interment will be announced later.

Sipangpang Falls Mini-Hydro Power and Eco-Tourism Project
Cantilan, Surigao del Sur

Hon. Mayor Tomasa L.Guardo with the full support of Municipal Council of Cantilan, Surigao Del Sur announces the completion of the Feasibility Study by the UPP Associates Corporation for the proposed 2 MW Sipangpang Mini Hydro Project. The Project is environment friendly/tourist attraction and can supply reliable/quality power to CarCanMadCarLan area, encourage investors, create jobs, provides income/livelihood for LGU Cantilan/Cabangahan, and improvement of watershed/access road. Engr.Godolivo B. Urbiztondo Jr. of UPP confirmed that they are involved in the on-going construction of 2.5MW Sevilla MHP in Bohol and completed Feasibility Study & Design of 0.75MW San Luis MHP in Aurora Province.

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Politicos urged: Keep streamers off cemeteries

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

WATCH out for the battle of political banners this coming All Saints' Day.

With the 2004 elections fast approaching, cemeteries are expected to teem with banners from politicians in the next few days.

But in Caloocan City, Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo appealed to his fellow politicians to refrain from putting up posters and streamers in the city's cemeteries.

In a statement, Malonzo called the hanging of streamers a "cheap tactic and would only worsen the city's garbage problem."

Malonzo, who is in Bangkok, Thailand, also told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that those who want to put up streamers should first get a permit from the city hall.

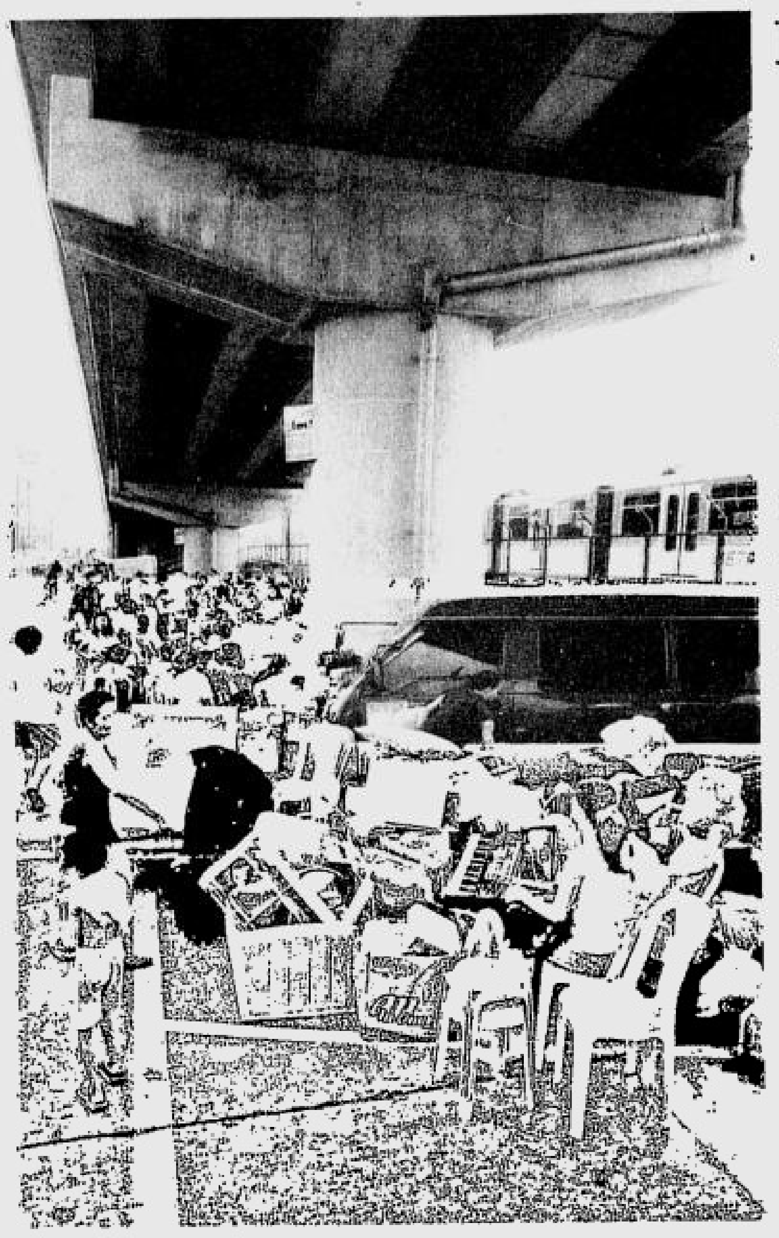
But Caloocan City District 1 Rep. Enrico Echiverri said he saw nothing "illegal or immoral (in hanging streamers and posters)," adding that he was preparing to put up his own posters "joining the people in observing All Saints' Day."

"Malonzo should first appeal to himself not to put up posters," Echeverri told the INQUIRER yesterday, referring to the multitude of posters showing Malonzo and his common-law wife Gigi Emnace in key areas in the city.

The posters had been the subject of a case filed against Malonzo and Emnace before the Office of the Ombudsman last month.

District II Rep. Edgar Erice also called Malonzo's appeal as a form of "political harassment."

Malonzo is said to be grooming Emnace for the 2004 mayoralty elections. She is expected to go up against Erice and Echiverri.



HOMELESS FOR NOW
Residents of two barangays in Pasay City, whose homes were razed by a blaze which hit the area on Monday night, seek temporary shelter under the MRT structure on Edsa. More than 1,000 families were left homeless by the fire. Story on Page A22.
ERIK ARAZAS

PNP VOW TO BANKS

'We'll be there in 5 minutes'

By Christian V. Esguerra

THIS time they won't be late. Or so the Philippine National Police claims.

Shamed by a series of bank robberies in recent months, the PNP yesterday vowed to arrive at the crime scene in five minutes at the maximum and catch the robbers or engage them in a shootout if necessary.

"It will be just like in the movies where police arrive on time and arrest the bad guys," said Deputy Director General Virtus Gil, the PNP chief for operations and head of the newly formed task force on bank robberies.

Having made the bold prediction, Gil was hoping that members of the PNP's elite units —the Special Weapons and Tactics and the Special Action Force—would rise to the occasion.

The plan is to deploy these units in areas where banks are isolated and thereby a possible target for robbers, Gil told reporters. These units will be backed by snipers.

Gil said a separate group at the nearby police station will be on hand to provide reinforcement to the SWAT and SAF teams.

With the PNP vowing not to be late on bank robberies next time, much is also expected from bank officials.

At a meeting with bank managers last week, Gil urged them to upgrade their alarm systems attached to the nearby police station.

He suggested that the 2,226 banks in Metro Manila subscribe to a company that has the technology to help police stations identify the exact location of a robbery upon report.

Security guards were also encouraged to frisk all customers right at the entrance.

After receiving the report, Gil said police would secure the bank's perimeter and accost robbers outside the establishment. "We don't want to have a hostage situation so we'll engage the robbers outside."

During the meeting, some bank officials suggested that their guards be issued high-powered firearms other than the standard 12-gauge shotgun and 38-caliber pistols. Gil said the idea could be worked out with the PNP Firearms and Explosive Unit.

Meanwhile, robbers tried but failed to take any money from an Asiatrust Bank in a pre-dawn heist yesterday in San Juan, according to a bank official.

The robbers were able to open the main door of the bank located at the Quad Villon Mansion building on N. Domingo Avenue corner Paterno Sumar Street.

But bank manager Araceli Macalo said nothing was lost. "No loss. They didn't get anything," she said in a phone interview.

Macalo said the robbers tripped the alarm, and that probably sent them scurrying away.

With a report from Luige del Puerto

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GSX	790,000	118,500	57,303	39,515	31,441	22,589	18,468	15,690
GLX	750,000	112,500	54,220	37,389	29,752	21,376	17,475	14,846
GL	678,000	101,700	48,870	33,562	26,710	19,190	15,689	13,326
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MFG turning into a Davao preserve

Medal standing	G	S	B
Davao City	16	21	14
Koronadal	9	6	4
Iligan City	8	7	12
Bukidnon	4	2	1
Gen. San	7	7	5
Ozamis	2	3	2
Cotabato City	3	2	0
Panabo City	3	2	0
So. Cotabato	1	0	2
Mis. Or	0	1	0
Davao Or.	6	2	7
Zamboanga	1	0	2
Malaybalay	1	2	2
Unattached	0	0	1

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MATI, Davao Oriental—Davao City matched its two-day collection with eight gold medals from four events yesterday and threatened to turn into its private preserve the 3rd Mindanao Friendship Games here.

The Davao athletes captured three of nine triathlon golds, won twice in athletics and in swimming and picked up another triumph in cycling to pull away from the field with a gold-silver-bronze tally of 16-21-14.

Koronadal couldn't match Davao's balanced drive but held on to second at 9-6-4 with Iligan, a very close third at 8-7-12, Gen. Santos, fourth at 7-7-5 and Davao Oriental, fifth at 6-2-7.

Davao's triathlon golds came from Johnny Yanong, 23, in the overall event, Roxane Sayago, 21, in the women's event and Khay Jay Muldes in the 25-29 age category.

Over at the track oval, Roy Ocon won the men's 800 meters and Darel Joie Sulano leaped to the gold in the women's long jump while 2001 MFG athlete of the year Norton Alamara topped the 50m breaststroke and helped Davao rule the 400m freestyle relay.

Nitzel Montebon accounted for Davao's last gold by winning the individual time trial in 37 minutes and 4.50 seconds.

Monday's biggest performer, Monique Bacolod of Iligan City, took her fourth gold after besting the opposition in the women's 200m backstroke.

Iligan emerged the day's pool champion as Shahani Navarro topped the 100m breaststroke and Nianh Lyn Acain prevailed in the 50m fly.

But the swimmer to watch is Norton, who won 11 golds in the 2001 inaugural MFG held in Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

"The competition now is tougher, but I hope I can meet my target of five golds," said the 5-foot-11 Norton, an Arafura Games veteran who picked up three golds last year in Cagayan de Oro.

Also winning golds in triathlon were Jerson Peres of Panabo City (16-19 years), Leo Colonia of Bukidnon (20-24), Danilo Biolango of Zamboanga (30-34), Alfredo Galvano of Bukidnon (35-39), Felix Montilla of Davao Oriental (40-44) and Alberto Daisog of Cagayan de Oro (45-49).

Gen. Santos City struck in gymnastics with two golds from Reyna delos Reyes in the rhythmic individual all-around and the rhythmic team.

Ilocos Norte also created a ripple in athletics as Wilma Butac won the women's 3,000m and Hannah Sia prevailed in the women's shot put.

Football, which began last Oct. 18, was almost scrapped after team managers threatened to pull out due to the unplayable field at the Mati Central Elementary School.

The team managers complained to tournament director Joaquin Preysler that the field was in atrocious conditions the players hobbled out of the field with wounds and scratches on their legs.

But organizers saved what is actually a popular event here by tapping a new field in Dahican town. The event has drawn a total of 17 teams.

IZAH Sueno of Koronadal, South Cotabato on the way to the gold in the 200m freestyle. EDWIN BACASMAS

Buhain rumored ouster dampens action at Games

MATI, Davao Oriental—Rumors spread here like wildfire regarding the alleged resignation of Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain and the appointment of former basketball player Robert "Dudut" Jaworski Jr. as his replacement.

Competitions at the Mindanao Friendship Games were suddenly eclipsed by the news flashed on television that Jaworski Jr. was all set to take over the PSC reins from Buhain.

PSC spokesman Arsenic Lacson was quick to dismiss the rumors, saying the TV clip was based on a report from a tabloid insinuating that Jaworski Jr. could be the next PSC chief.

But sources from Manila confirmed that Malacañang had indeed made an offer to the eldest son and namesake of Sen. Robert Jaworski, a former PBA star.

The elder Jaworski was here Saturday to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from Mati Mayor Francisco Rabat during the Games' opening ceremony.

Sources said the younger Jaworski was reluctant because he was planning to run as a congressman.

Lacson quoted Buhain as saying he is just serving at the pleasure of President Macapagal.

Aside from Jaworski Jr., husband of Asian Games equestrian gold medalist Mikee Cojuangco, other names being floated as possible Buhain successors are former PSC commissioners Eli Bontigao and Richie Garcia and Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

FedEx, Purefoods in crucial match

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
x-Sta. Lucia	6	4
Alaska	4	6
San Miguel	4	7
FedEx	3	7
Purefoods	2	8
Group B		
x-Coca-Cola	10	1
x-Red Bull	8	2
x-Talk N Text	6	4
x-Ginebra	6	5
Shell	3	8

x-Quarterfinalist

GAMES TODAY
(*Philsports Arena*)
5 p.m.—FedEx vs Purefoods
7:30 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Coca-Cola

FEDERAL Express and Purefoods collide today in a match that could decide the last quarterfinalist in Group A of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Philsports Arena.

The Express try to arrest a two-game slide in the 5 p.m. game with the Hotdogs, who moved into contention by downing the Alaska Aces last week with the help of new import Lenny Cooke.

Although FedEx remains a game ahead of Purefoods at 3-7, the Express cannot afford another setback after losing to San Miguel Beer and getting mangled by Coca-Cola in Bacolod City over the weekend.

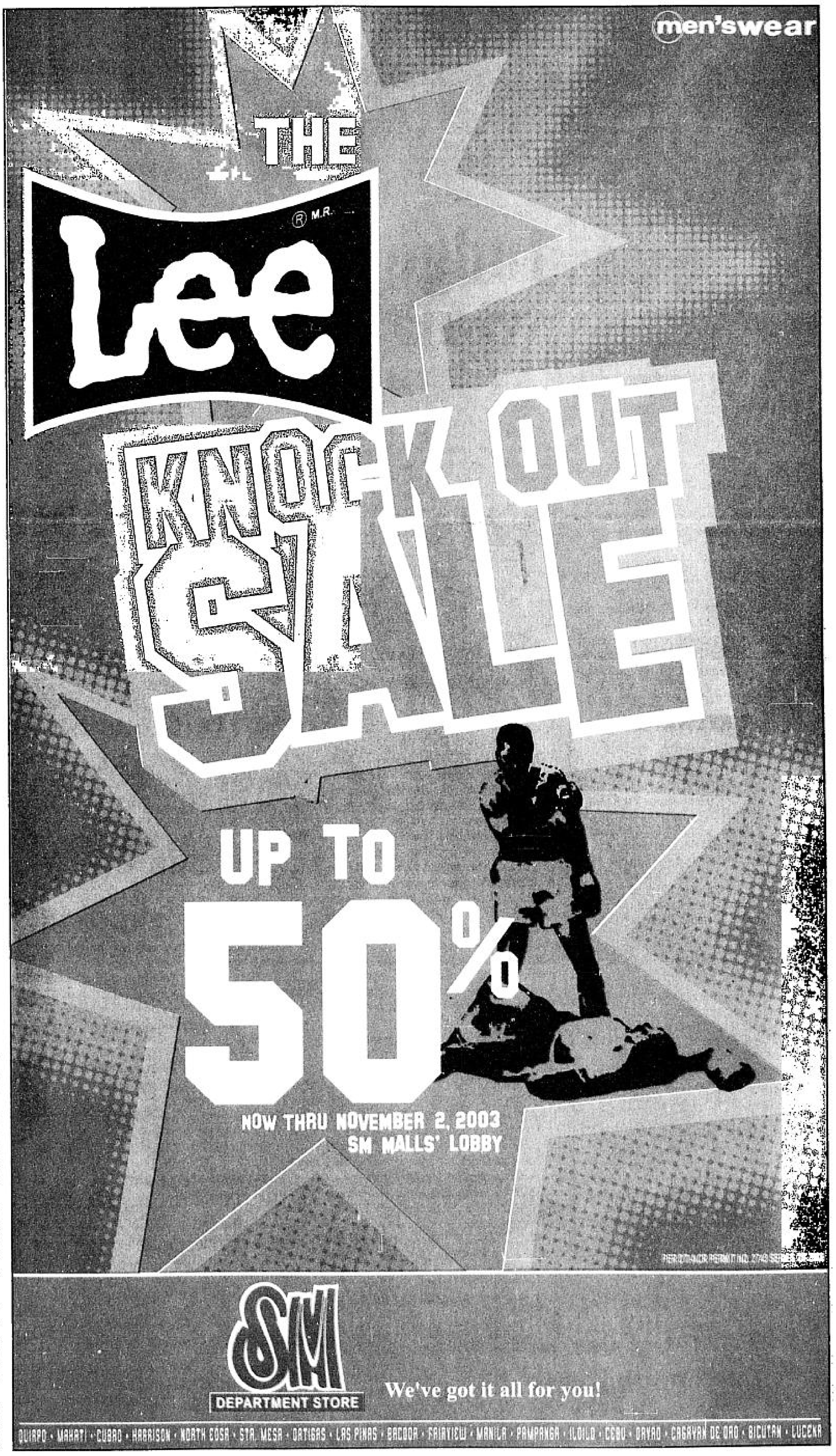
The Tigers tackle the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in a clash between early quarterfinalists at 7:30 p.m.

Shell's loss against Barangay Ginebra last Sunday gave Coke, Red Bull, Talk 'N Text and Ginebra free ride into the next phase.

Cooke, a playground legend in Rucker Park, Harlem, New York, proved the inspiration the Hotdogs was looking for.

With the 21-year-old bruiser around, Kerby Raymundo, Noy Castillo, Rodney Santos, Billy Mamaril and Rey Evangelista have been churning out inspired performances the past three games.

The Express are struggling with Terrence Shannon unable to fully adapt to their style. *June Navarro*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PBL backs call for cage 'superbody'

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE FORMATION of a basketball superbody yesterday received solid backing from the Philippine Basketball League, which feels only a restructuring of a national program would breathe new life into the nation's favorite sport.

"The country needs a strong basketball program to achieve its dreams of figuring well in international competitions like the Asian Games, Asian championships and even the Olympics, where Filipino players used to play against the best of the region and the world. If nothing is done about this, patch-up solutions would not do it for us," said PBL commissioner Chito Trinidad.

Trinidad, who has given the national team a slot in the coming PBL Platinum Cup so it can train for the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam in December, said it has been the PBL's dream to be part of a "basketball superbody" in which leagues and organizations have a voice in formulating national policies and programs.

The creation of "basketball superbody" was being pushed by Nic Jorge, secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines Inc. (Bapi), whose legitimacy was upheld by the Court of Appeals in a recent decision.

The Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission have no choice but to obey the rule of court and recognize Bapi as the sole legitimate organization for the sport.

But the BAP legal counsel, Bonifacio Alentajan, downplayed the Court of Appeals ruling recognizing the Bapi, saying "the bottomline is that the present BAP is recognized by the Fiba (the world basketball body) and the International Olympic Committee."

In a hastily organized press conference yesterday, Alentajan also called on POC president Celso Dayrit to "play it fair" regarding the BAP leadership issue. Earlier, Alentajan and BAP secretary general Graham Lim were prevented from participating in the PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion.

"He (Dayrit) has been biased against the BAP all these times. He's politicking," Alentajan said.

Dayrit had earlier called for a restructuring of the BAP leadership following the court ruling.

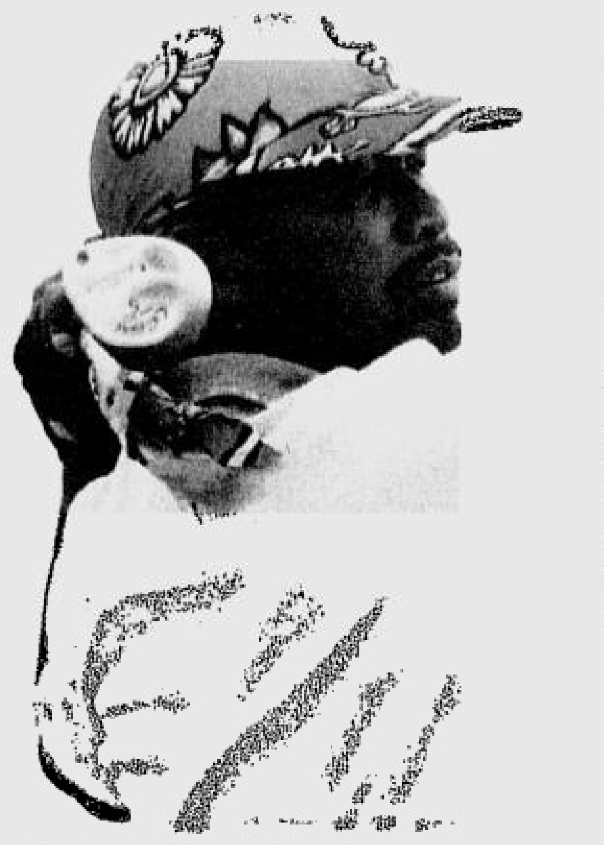
Alentajan said it's very clear that the Fiba recognizes only one body.

"That body is the BAP headed by (Tiny) Literal, who beat the group of Freddie Jalasco, Lito Puyat and Nic Jorge, 21-0, in an election supervised by no less than the Fiba and IOC at the Century Park Sheraton," said Alentajan.

Meanwhile, RP coach Aric del Rosario stressed that his main concern is to win the basketball gold in the SEA Games and not the ongoing BAP leadership dispute.

At the same time, Jean Henri Lhuillier, main supporter of the RP quintet, reiterated his support for the team in line with its vision to help the squad regain its standing in the Asian level.

With a report from Agnes Mogro



CASAS: Five birdies worth 10 points. ROGER MARGALLO

Casas shows way in Eastridge golf

By Jong Arcano

CASSIUS Casas salvaged two bogey putts that meant a lot under the tough scoring format and grabbed the first-round lead with eight points yesterday in the P1 million Eastridge Invitational in Binangonan, Rizal.

The 36-year-old Casas, whose last victory netted him P1 million in the Razon Memorial at the Country Club early this year, put himself atop the leaderboard with five birdies worth 10 points at the Eastridge Golf Club course.

It could have been entirely different, however, had he flubbed putts for bogey from six feet on the seventh and 12th holes. His two bogeys cost him two points. Otherwise, he would have lost three points for a double bogey.

"That's really what this battle is all about, avoiding a double-bogey," said Casas, who barely missed a five-pointer on the 18th where an eagle try from 10 feet grazed the cup.

What Casas skillfully avoided all day struck Danny delos Santos on the par-5 sixth where his 7 cost him three points. But he recovered with three late birdies to join Dan Cruz in second place at seven points.

Rey Alit had a hard-earned six points on a pleasant day while Carito Villaroman and Tony Lascuna both collected five points each to tie for fifth spot in the tourney sponsored by Mega Pro Resources, International and Overseas Professional Achievers International.

The winner of Tuesday's pro-am, Rey Pagunsan, ended up with zero points. He threw away the points he earned from four birdies with five three-putt miscues.

The leaders: 8 points—C. Casas; 7—D. delos Santos, D. Cruz; 6—R. Alit; 5—T. Lascuna, C. Villaroman; 4—Ferdie Aunzo (am); 3—E. Ababa, C. Ababa; 2—V. Lauron, Park Sung Mo, R. Pactolerin; 0—R. Pagunsan.

Caddies tilt finds a venue

VALLEY'S Executive Course in Antipolo City will be the venue of the much-awaited Uratex National Caddies Championship slated Nov. 25-28, organizers said.

Uratex owner Robert Cheng, who launched the unique event in 1988 at Capitol Hills, said organizing committee co-chair Col. Abe Villanueva received word from the Valley board, headed by its president Manuel Quiogue, that it had approved their request to be the site of the tournament.

Cheng thanked the board for their decision to back the tournament which has produced the likes of top professionals Rodolfo Cuello, Al Cruz and Benjie Magada.

Quioge said Valley "wants to be involved in this good tournament and be a part of golf development."

Judge orders Kobe sexual assault trial

EAGLE, Colorado—Kobe Bryant must stand trial on a charge of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old resort worker, a judge ruled Monday.

BRYANT

Eagle County Judge Frederick Gannett said prosecutors presented enough evidence Bryant might have committed the crime June 30. The Los Angeles Lakers guard could face a life sentence if convicted. His next appearance, in district court, is set for Nov. 10.

Bryant has said the sex was consensual. His attorneys suggested the woman's injuries came during sex with other men in the days before her encounter with Bryant at a posh resort in nearby Edwards.

The defense can appeal Gannett's ruling, but such appeals are rare, legal experts said.

Bryant practised with the Los Angeles Lakers at their El Segundo, California, facility on Monday and it wrapped up about two hours before the judge issued his ruling.

Bryant was asked then about the decision that would be coming out of the Colorado courtroom.

"What courtroom?" he said.

At Bryant's first appearance in state court he will be advised of his rights, of the charge and of the possible penalties.

Unless Bryant waives his right to a speedy trial, the trial would be scheduled within six months of his plea.

After Monday's practice, Bryant was asked how much anxiety he was feeling.

"Basketball, zero anxiety. Other stuff, a little anxiety," he said. "But now I just pretty much, you know, give it up. I've pretty much I done all I can. Now I'll let God carry me the rest of the way. I feel comfortable with that." *AP*

Wind Blown returns

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

TWO-TIME Horse of the Year Wind Blown, recovering from a recent foot injury, makes his keenly awaited comeback race next month at the Sta. Ana Park.

Named top horse in 2001 and 2002, Wind Blown (Hazm-Wind in my Hair) suffered a swollen hoof last week after stepping on a nail at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite, while training for the Philtobo-Mitra Cup, forcing owner Hermie Esguerra to scratch the 7-year-old superhorse from further participation at the SLLP.

Trainer Nestor Manalang said it would take from a week or two before the millionaire racehorse recovers from the injury. But yesterday, Wind Blown appears to have recovered from the wound, thus leading his camp to say that their champion galloper will not disappoint his legions of followers during his comeback race.

Inactive since losing to Golden Ballet in the First Gentleman's Silver Cup on May 11, Wind Blown was scheduled to be ridden by celebrated jockey Jeffril Zarate in his quest to regain lost prestige this season. Last year, Wind Blown lost his bid to win for the third straight year the Presidential Gold Cup, but he bounced back with flourish by winning the Philracom Christmas Invitational Classic on Dec. 8.

One month earlier, Nov. 17 to be exact, Wind Blown captured the highly successful San Miguel Beer-Marho Breeders' Cup, posting a smashing back-to-back victory in the lung-busting 2,050-meter distance despite losing a show at the FG Silver Cup in the muddy track of the rain-soaked Santa Ana oval.

As for his present condition, Wind Blown will be very, very hard to beat—if he is perfectly fit. "All that the jockey has to do is guide him and he will do the rest," said his camp, stressing that the multititled horse lost chiefly because of the heavy load he carried, the top weight of 62 kilos, which is roughly the equivalent of two sacks of rice.

***

RENE WILL BE MISSED. I extend my deepest sympathy to the family of the late Renato "Rene" Fortaleza who died recently due to a lingering illness at age 48.

A former Olympic boxer and Asian champion from Far Eastern University, Rene was named secretary general of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines in 1989 by then Abap president and Manila mayor Mel Lopez. A few years back, Rene and my late brother, Eduardo, brought Abap's popular Go for Gold program to my hometown in Marilao, Bulacan, in cooperation with sportsminded Mayor Nonoy Duran. A hardworking boxing man, Rene will be missed.

SPORTSWATCH

Unigames today

THE COUNTRY'S biggest annual athletic competition for tertiary schools unfurls today with about 2,300 athletes seeing action in 10 sports at the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas grounds in Cavite. A total of 43 colleges and universities are participating in the eight-day University Games (Unigames) to be opened by Cavite Gov. Ireneo Maliksi, Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) chair Bro. Rolando Dizon and Dasmariñas Mayor Elpidio Barzaga.

Little Olympics

OVER P300,000 worth of sports equipment and educational assistance await the top schools and most outstanding athletes when the 2003 Milo Little Olympics-National Capital Region kicks off on Nov. 15-16 and 22-23 at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. The high school and elementary overall champion schools will take home P40,000 worth of sports equipment.

UST cagebelles lead

DEFENDING collegiate champion University of Santo Tomas triumphed twice last weekend to assume solo leadership in the multilevel Milo BEST Women's Basketball League (WBL) at the St. Benedict courts in Alabang Hills. The Lady Tigers ripped University of Asia and the Pacific, 61-40, and then subdued St. Scholastica's College, 38-29, to improve their record to 4-0.

No pay, but illusion is a rage at PSC

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(KIDAPAWAN FIGHT: A boxing curtain-raiser is not staged a full week before the main event. But the title bout between WBC International flyweight champion Randy Mangubat and top challenger Diosdado Gabi at the Kidapawan City Gymnasium on Nov. 9 promises to be an explosive appetizer to Manny Pacquiao's big fight in San Antonio, Texas a week after the North Cotabato slug-out. It's a clash between two prospective future world titlists. Pacquiao's brother, Bobby, meets Fil-Am banger Arnick Arabala of Colorado in the chief supporting bout. Promoter Socrates Piñol says the card is Kipadawan's biggest event in years.)

***

THEY are playing a new game out there at the Philippine Sports Commission.

The name of the game? Illusion.

It's like this. Our national athletes have not received their regular allowances from the government as of yesterday noon.

That was a delay of nearly three days.

It was the first time this has happened.

But if you look around the PSC office, you would not suspect anything wrong.

The mess is kept under wraps and not a word of the damaging delay comes out in the newspapers.

There's this belief that one tricky manipulator works the magic to paint a very rosy picture of things at the PSC.

***

Actually, it's not only the athletes who have suffered from the delay.

All the other PSC employees also have not gotten their salaries.

Jimmy Sebastian, former head of the national athletes and coaches association who now works as PSC consultant, said not a few of his companions had threatened to strike.

"This is very frustrating," he exclaimed. "*Hirap sila*. This will definitely hinder their training for the Southeast Asian Games."

Sebastian said national athletes and PSC employees were left to wonder where their bosses had taken the payroll bag.

Two theories behind the latest PSC mess were floated:

1) Pagcor was late in remitting its contribution to the government sports funding agency.

2) Money intended for the salaries and allowances were diverted to the Mindanao Games

***

Columnist Fred Lumba said he suspects funds had to be diverted after expenses for the Mindanao Games were bloated overnight to something like P11.6 million.

The situation was so bad that rowing association president Nestor Ilagan had to borrow money to pay his athletes, among those tapped to land big medals in the Vietnam Games in December.

"I'm telling this only to you, it's only now that allowances of athletes and salaries of PSC employees have been delayed," confided baseball great Boy Codiñera.

He added: "The employees and national athletes were asking: where's the payroll? If they could buy all those classy cars, why can't they at least give us the little pay we have worked hard for?"

***

This being a touchy issue, we tried to call the PSC information officer, but his cellphone just kept ringing shortly before noon.

By the way, this media running dog is the chief suspect behind the operation of an enormous fund to delude the public on the actual state of affairs in the PSC.

This master illusionist reportedly keeps a list of people whose opinion and eyesight he tries to control through material manipulation. Our master illusionist is reportedly always available to provide those in his magic list a taste of the good life.

My *kumpadre*, Fred Lumba, the Malaya columnist, swore he had been offered a hefty sum to be part of the manipulator's magic list.

Fred said he turned the good-time offer down, a fact that was acknowledged by one PSC office secretary through a text message dated May 16.

Read the message of the PSC secretary to Mr. Lumba: "Yes, I know and I respect your decision. OK, I'll check if your name is still in the list."

***

So how much does the PSC spend monthly to keep this magic list working?

From what he hears, it could be as much as P500,000 a month, Lumba surmised.

So far, the illusionist has displayed a rare talent in his new calling.

First, he had instantly made the expensive cars bought by PSC staffers close to Buhain appear cheap and insignificant.

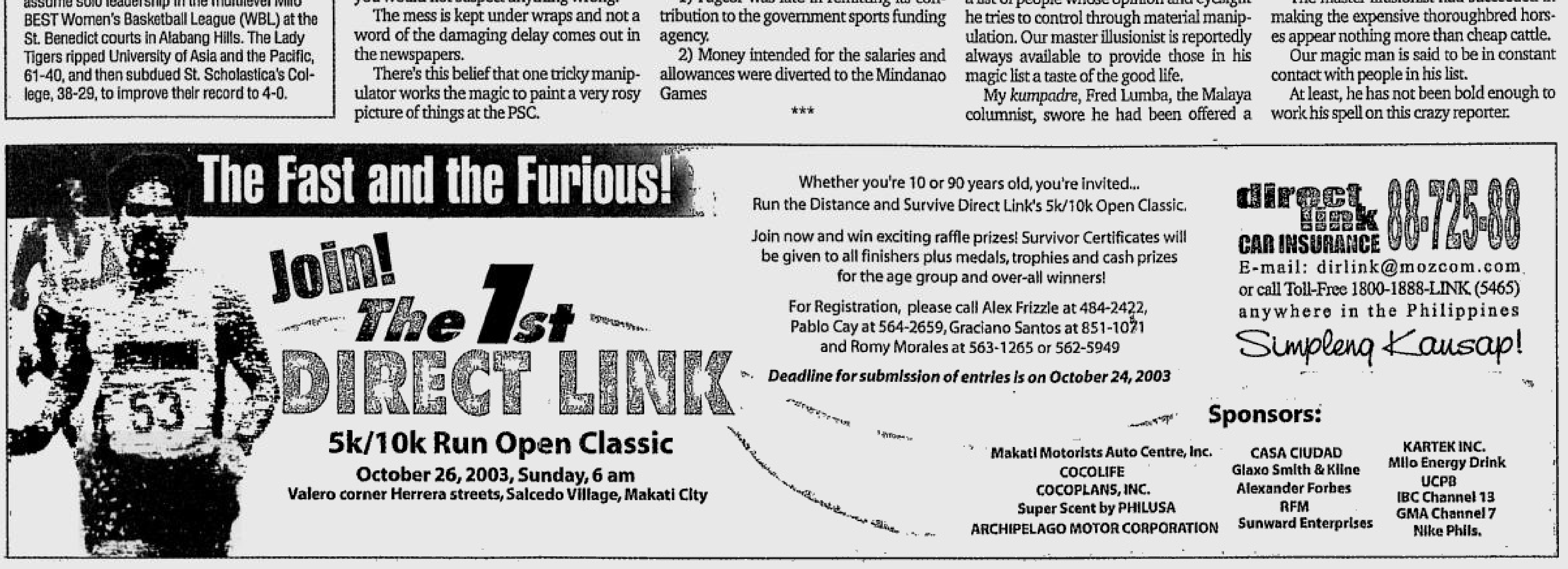
There were reports this master cover-up man could've worked his spell on Rep. Monico Puentevella, after the Bacolod solon suddenly fell dumb on his threat to subject top PSC staffers to a lifestyle check.

There's also the case the racehorses which the PSC had anomalously imported.

The master illusionist had succeeded in making the expensive thoroughbred horses appear nothing more than cheap cattle.

Our magic man is said to be in constant contact with people in his list.

At least, he has not been bold enough to work his spell on this crazy reporter.



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World Series shifts to Dan Marino Blvd.

MIAMI—Karim Garcia was running a bit late to practice Monday when he jogged down a darkened corridor and headed onto the field at Pro Player Stadium.

Suddenly, the New York Yankees outfielder jerked his head. The bright glare blinded him.

"Whoa!" he said, scrambling for his shades.

Sunglasses scattered in the clubhouse, bottles of Gatorade strewn in the dugout, players in shorts.

Clearly, the scene had shifted in this World Series, from baseball's most hallowed ark to 2267 Dan Marino Boulevard, the address of a stadium originally built for American football.

Not that the Florida Marlins mind at all, going into Game 3 Tuesday night (Wednesday morning in Manila) tied at 1 with the Yankees. Ace Josh Beckett was to start against New York's Mike Mussina.

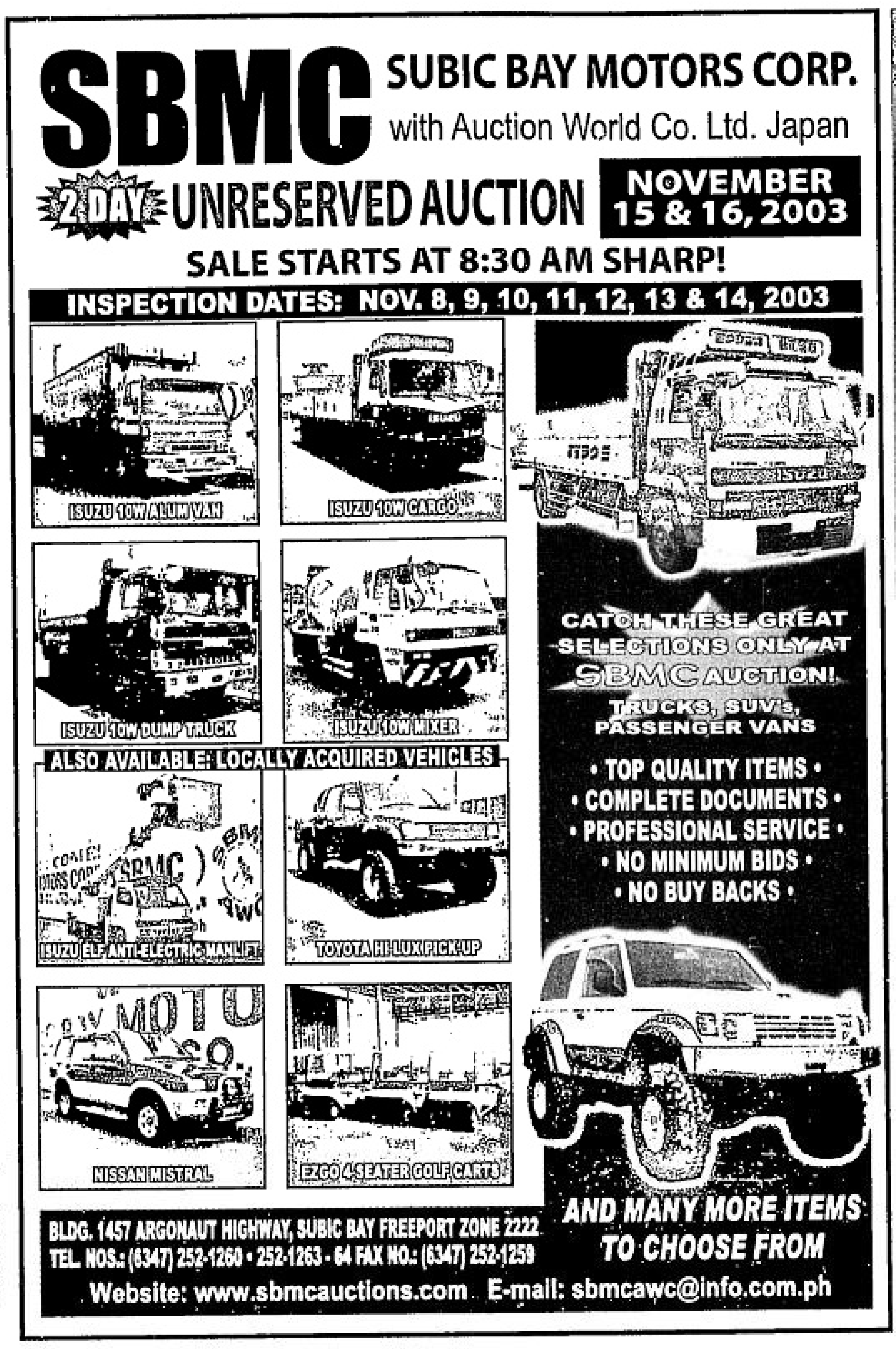
The Marlins won the opener, 3-2, at Yankee Stadium, before the Yankees bounced back in Game Two, 6-1.

The Marlins were one of the majors' best home teams this season. There are shades of October, too—the last time the Series was here, the crowd was going crazy as Edgar Renteria hit a winning single in the bottom of the 11th inning to beat Cleveland in Game 7 in 1997. *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Diamond Sky 2. Touch of Luck 3. Ocean Menary
Race 2—1. Sandstorm 2. Compañero 3. Regal Reality 4. Aprey's Choice
Race 3—1. I Love This Game 2. Gorgeous Sand 3. Regal Reality
Race 4—1. Star Material 2. Alessandra 3. Itz Me Dahlin 4. Rikitik 5. Something Best
Race 5—1. Last Hazm 2. Queen of Gaia 3. Celebration 4. Naughty 5. Strong Colony
Race 6—1. Montpellier 2. Pen Tristram 3. Peek A Boo 4. Kantayok 5. Sovereign Queen
Race 7—1. Bunker Buster 2. Western Dancer 3. Magnanimous 4. Lady Victoria 5. Native Talent
Race 8—1. Maximo 2. Candid 3. King Ram 4. Early Warning
Race 9—1. American Beauty 2. Heat Breaker 3. Sir Olizon 4. Queen Ramasas 5. Run Doding Fly 6. Mirame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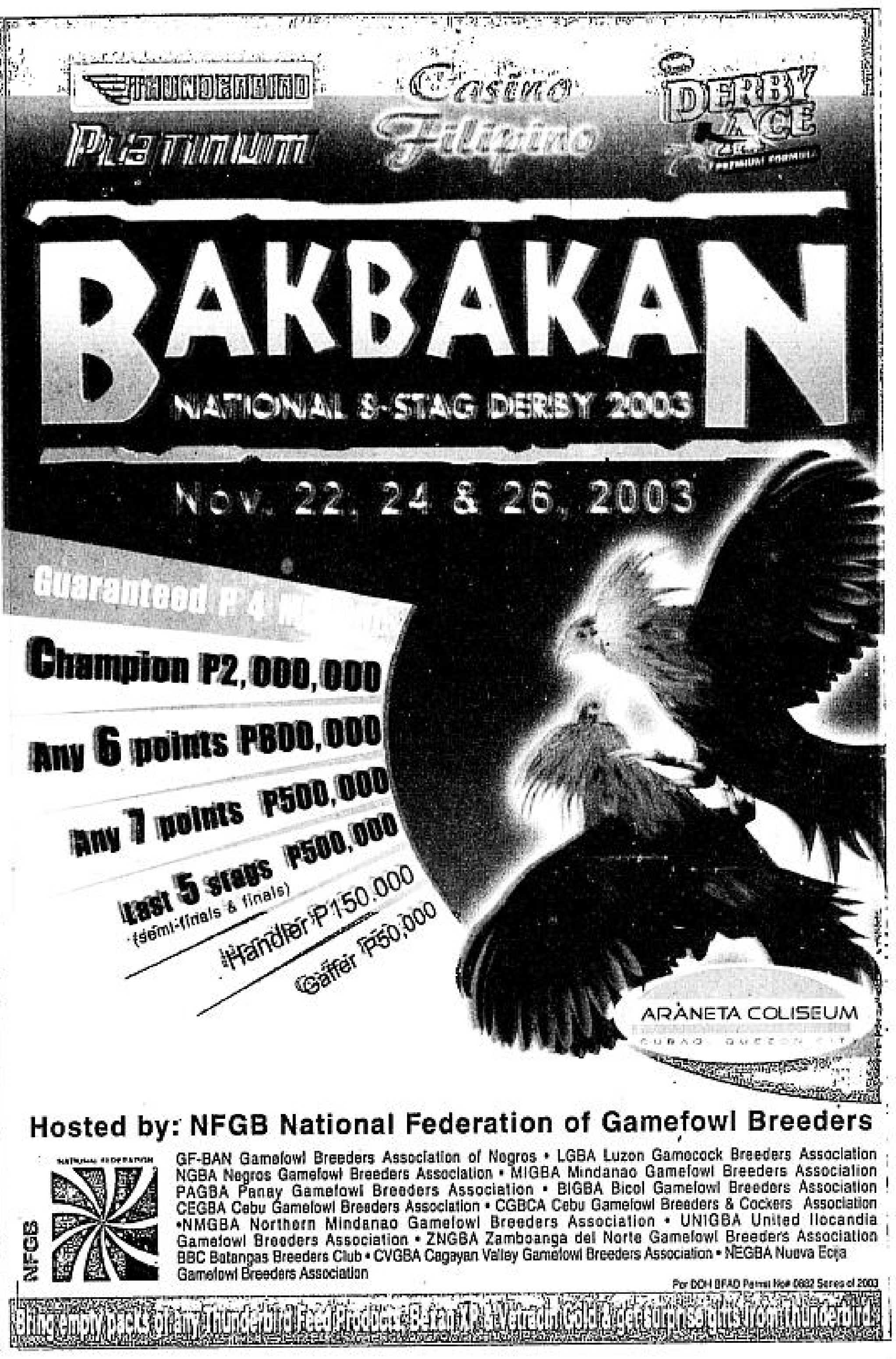
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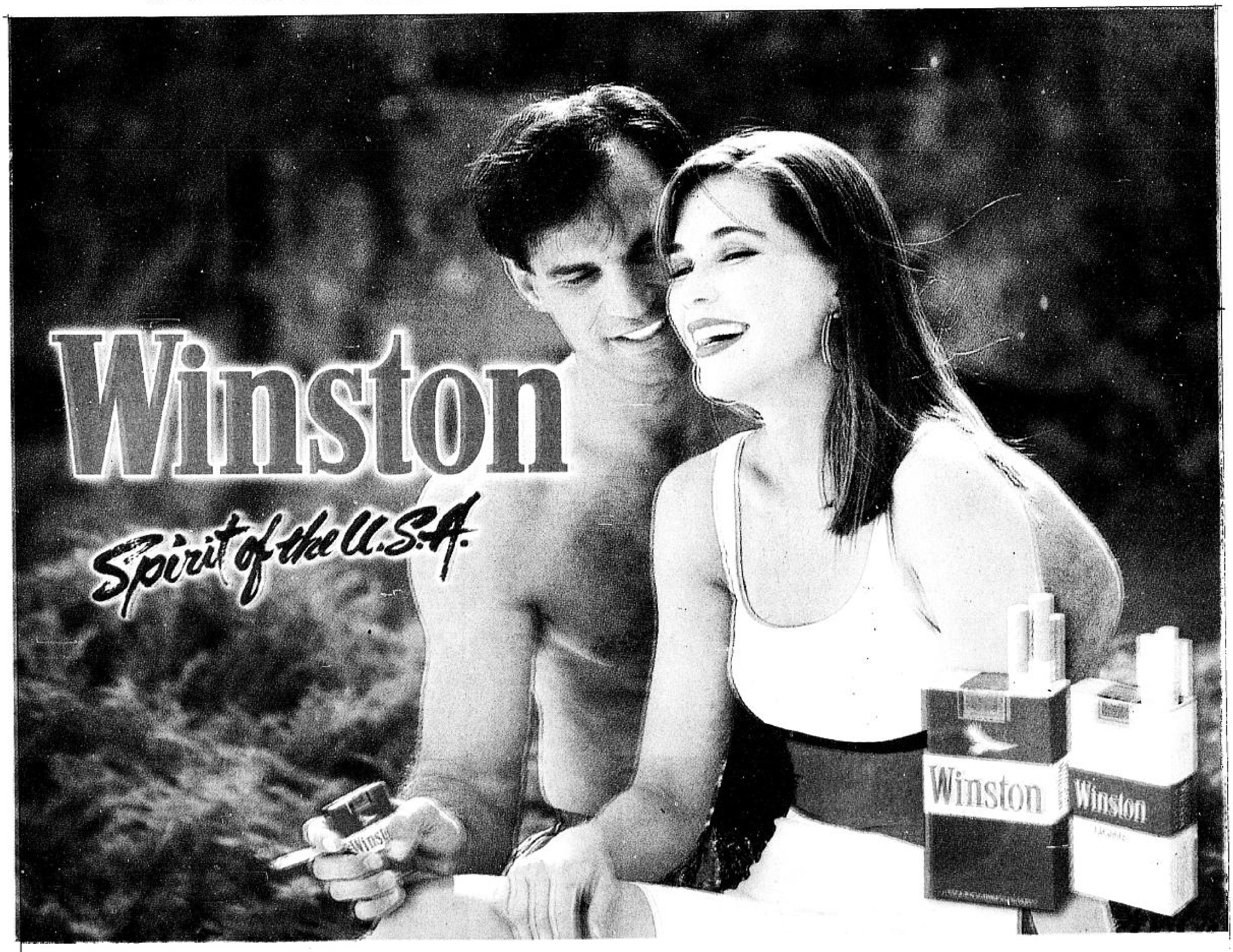

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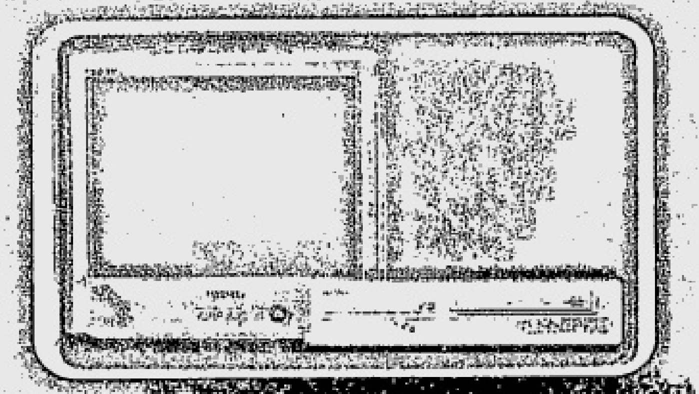

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Promo runs from October 18 to December 9, 2003.

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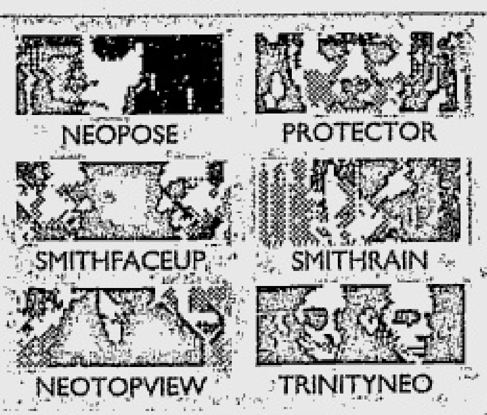
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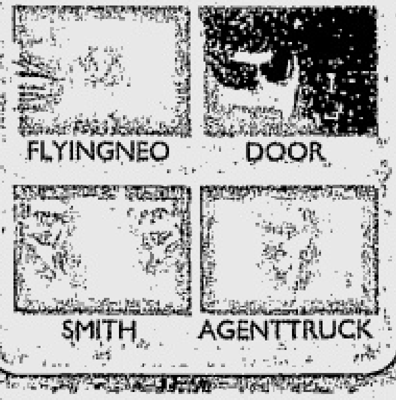
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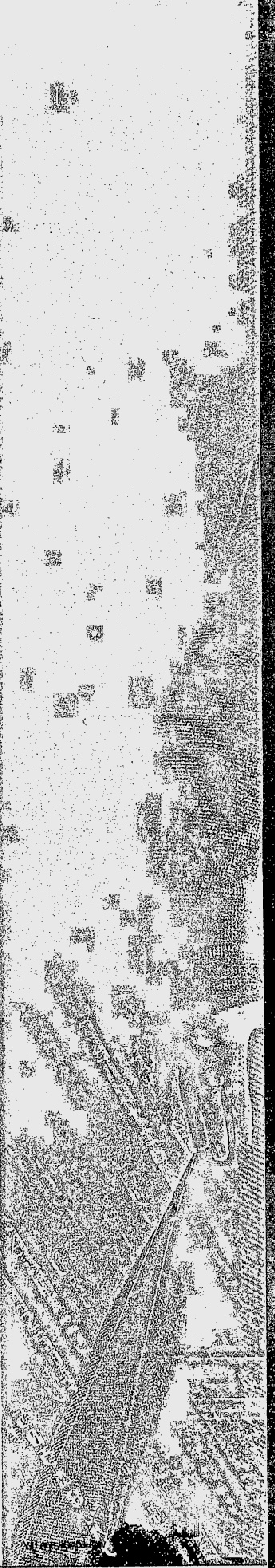

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Vic plays another funny, familiar, Fantastic hero

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

VIC Sotto feels it's a blessing in disguise that plans for the sequel of the smash hit "Lastikman" fell through.

"Ever since we started talking about 'Lastikman 2,' I already had second thoughts about it," says Vic, the best comedy actor and variety show host in the recent Star Awards for Television.

"What else can we do? The powers of Lastikman are limited. *Humahaba lang siya* and that's it. So I said we might as well do something else. And what could be better than someone who has more fantastic powers?"

That's how "Fantastic Man" was born and moviegoers will meet the character in December when the movie is shown during the Metro Manila Film Festival. Director Tony Y. Reyes assures the family of the late great Mars Ravelo, creator of *komiks* heroes like Captain Barbell and Darna, that the new Pinoy superhero is galaxies apart from Lastikman.

Reyes explained last Thursday on the set of "Fantastic Man" in Intramuros, Manila, that negotiations between him—on behalf of co-producers Orly Ilacad of Octoarts Films and Vic—and the Ravelos bogged down last May. "They were asking for two million pesos," he said of the Ravelos. "*Ganoon katindi*."

The rights to the first Lastikman movie cost only P130,000, he said. "We offered P500,000, they wanted 1.8 million.

"Actually," he added, "*'yung* story *at saka* powers *ni* Lastikman, *ako lang ang may gawa*. When we went back to the old komiks, he was only fighting petty criminals. We modernized (the concept of Lastikman). *Mas nakilala siya*, so *dapat mas matuwa sila* (the Ravelos)."

He said "Fantastic Man" offers a "whole package of entertainment." Aside from the improved special effects, it will have more comedic situations than "Lastikman," according to him.

Unlike Lastikman, who discovered his extraordinary ability to expand his body when he was just a boy, Fantastic Man becomes alive in the person of a grown man named Fredo (Vic), the inept assistant of a robotics professor (Michael V). Ara Mina plays Helen, the object of Fredo's affection, who later on becomes Fantastic Man's nemesis, Diabolika.

Vic ditches the dark blue-and-white suit of Lastikman and wears a more vivid magenta and mustard costume.

"I swim a lot," he replies with a chuckle when asked how he physically prepared for the superhero role. He's still not as buff as today's generation of superheroes, but this is where Fantastic Man's charm lies. It makes him accessible to the moviegoers.

Ara as Diabolika, looks like an intergalactic woman warrior (reminiscent of Tina Turner in "Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome), with wiry nails, porcupine-like hair and a lumpy face.

SOTTO as Fantastic Man (with Ara Mina, right) may not be as buff as today's generation of superheroes, but that's where the character's charm lies. ERIC ARAZAS

Getting into her costume, says Ara, is torture. "*Pero* enjoy *naman*," she smiles. "With Bossing (Vic) and Bitoy (Michael V), there's no dull moment on the set. *Mga kalog sila talaga*."

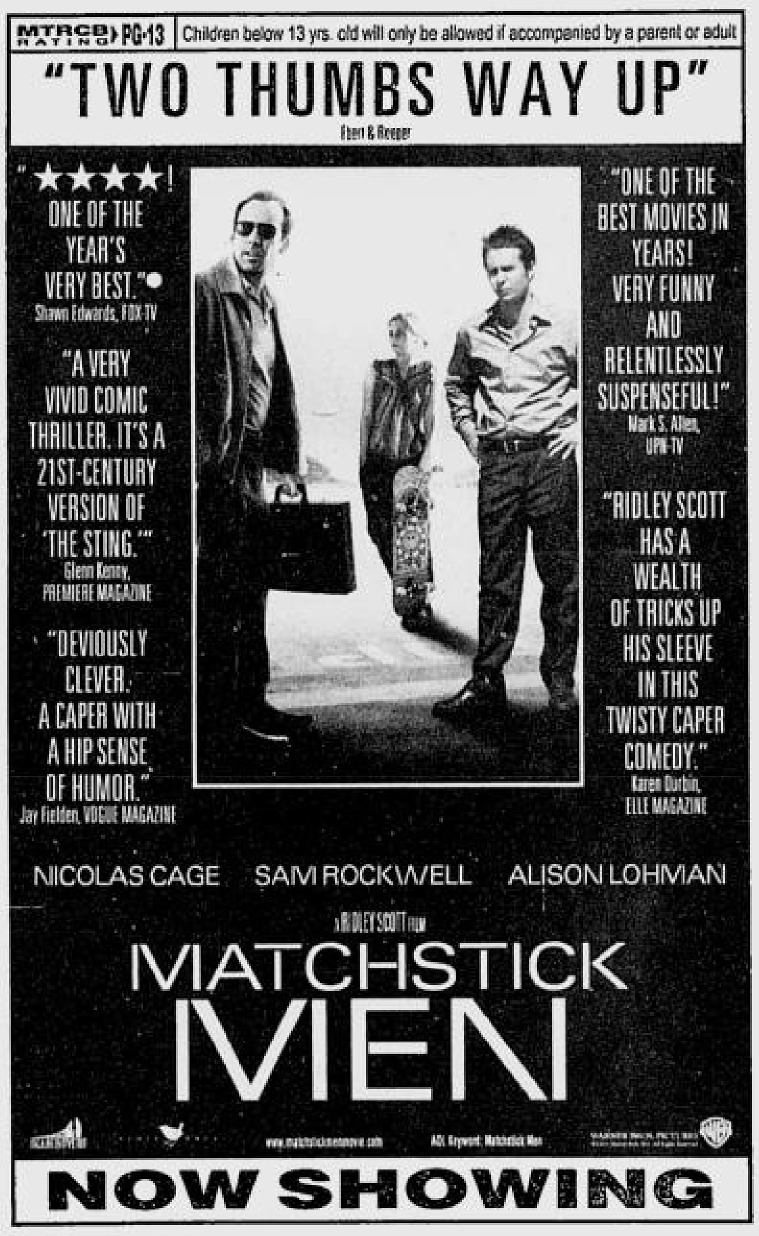
Michael V is not reprising his Junie Lee character, the bumbling TV journalist from his gag show "Bubble Gang" who provided the comic relief in "Lastikman." Instead, the rapper-turned-comedian will portray yet another quirky and humorous character, Prof. James Manalo.

Michael V also helped shape the storyline of "Fantastic Man" together with Reyes and comedy writer Chito Francisco.

"Actually, *nagbato lang ako ng* ideas," he shares. "I got frustrated when 'Lastikman 2' didn't happen. I was the one who wrote its script. I researched the history of 'Lastikman' and I made it a romantic-comedy. We tried to adapt it in 'Fantastic Man' but it didn't work."

He adds that the dual role of Ara Mina is the only element from his script that has been incorporated in "Fantastic Man."

"Originally it was she who was obsessed with Vic (as Fredo), but we reversed it so that Fantastic Man will find it hard to fight Diabolika."



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Eddie Romero's new film project

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

EVERY time we talk about **Eddie Romero**, we learn something new. Unlike many septuagenarians, he still isn't thinking of retiring. What an inspiration he is to us, ah, younger folks!

This year, Eddie had a big project, the historical TV series, "Diwa," which took him years to research. The challenging series was conceptualized and written by Eddie, and megged by him and other leading directors.

Also this year, Eddie's other major TV production, the serialization of Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere," is being replayed, for a new audience of students to learn from.

How wonderful that our senior writer-director, now a National Artist, continues to come up with new works that are superior in substance and achievement to what many other TV-film people are capable of creating.

But there's more. We learn from Eddie himself that, for four years now, he's been working on a major historical screenplay about the Philippine Revolution, specifically the complex conflict between Bonifacio and Aguinaldo, with a love story running through it for instructive contrast.

Eddie describes this new film as an opportunity for him to continue his investigation of some of the issues he tackled in his seminal film, "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?"

Indeed, it is his abiding fascination with the essence, make-up, strengths and flaws of the Filipino that has informed Eddie's major projects after "Ganito"—"Aguila," "Kamakalawa," Rizal's "Noli," "Diwa," and now, his new historical film, which we may get to see next year.

The country thanks you, Eddie, for continuing to challenge, inform, regale, remind, provoke and entertain us through the years and decades. We're glad that we've been able to truly express our gratitude to you with the National Artist award that was conferred on you earlier this year. And we look forward to viewing, appreciating and benefiting from your latest masterpiece.

'Star in a Million'

LAST Oct. 5, Channel 2's "ASAP Mania" held a special singing contest to select the 10th finalist in its "Star in a Million" singing tilt, the grand finals of which will be held this November.

Instead of going through the usual month-long elimination process, the show invited back five of its nine monthly also-rans to compete for the 10th and last slot in the yearlong contest.

As the five "recall" contestants performed one after another, we noted that two of them stood out. True enough, when the winner, Eric Santos, was announced, he turned out to be one of the two contestants we had mentally singled out.

Before the winner was chosen, segment host **Edu Manzano** talked to the five "recall" contestants and asked them what about them had changed (and hopefully improved) since the last time they had joined the tilt. Their answers were interesting and instructive.

Individually, they noted that they now had greater confidence as performers, and they had acquired greater "heart." A contestant from Canada postponed his return to his folks back home, because he now wanted to make it in show biz here. It was "addicting," he admitted, the excitement he got from performing.

On a more practical level, the contestants said they had learned to appreciate the importance of contacts and connections in the entertainment field. Thus, they dutifully thanked the show's staffers, and hoped that they would continue to support their fledgling singing careers in the future.

On the debit side, we noted that some of the contestants tried too hard to make a vivid impression when they performed, thus coming on too strong.

There was a tendency to sing beyond their natural range to satisfy the Filipino audience's preference for *birit* performances, with strained and uncomfortable results.

Also perceptible was the *gaya-gaya* syndrome, with contestants trying to sound like foreign stars, rather than developing their own singing style.

As young singers continue to pursue their careers, they should come to terms with these wrong attitudes and approaches. Only then can they truly hope to become a "star in a million."

OPENS OCTOBER 29
MAGIC 89.9
BRENDAN FRASER MICHAEL CAINE DO THIA HAI YEN
From the director of "CLEAR and PRESENT DANGER"
BETRAYAL DECEPTION MURDER
THE SPY

Pure a cappella music by Regine, Tux, Opera

ON OCT. 23 and 30, Songbird Regine Velasquez, together with the Tux and The Opera, performs pure a cappella music at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental.

Tux and The Opera are among the most versatile vocal groups in the industry. They continue to expand their boundaries by delving into different forms of music.

Sushi Reyes of The Opera says, "We are truly excited about this show because it has been our dream to do this type of show with Regine and Tux. I think the audience will find it interesting watching and listening to us blend all our voices on one stage without the help of any musical instruments. I don't think Regine has done a pure a capella performance in her other shows.

"The repertoire will be full of Regine's hits plus the most requested tunes," she adds.

For ticket inquiries, call Crossover, 712-9755 or 712-9764; Ticket World, 891-5610; or Captain's Bar, 750-8888.

The show is sponsored by Insular Life Income Earner and Café Puro Jade Blend and supported by Northwest Airlines, SM Advantage Loyalty Card, Petron Blaze, BPI Family Bank Happy Family Housing Loan, Philippine Star, BPI Family Bank Happy Family Auto Loan Treat for Repeat Promo, Ford Motor Company Phils., Royal Tru Orange Light, Enervon Tablet and Kenwood.

VELASQUEZ

Marissa to mesmerize in Music Museum show

MARISSA Sanchez, twice winner of the Aliw Award, is bent on bringing the house down in "Mesmerizing Marissa" at the Music Museum on Thursday, Oct. 23, at 8 p.m.

Marissa, whom the Aliw picked for best stand-up comedy performance in 2000 and as best performer in music lounges and bars in 2002, calls her new major concert a labor of love.

"I focused all of my energies in this show," she says. "It's something I haven't done in my previous shows."

"Mesmerizing Marissa" includes a special video directed by Marissa's friend and "Sis" director, Louie Ignacio.

Marissa's guests on the show are bombshell Patricia Javier and hunk Lance Raymundo.

Aside from appearing regularly on "Sis," Marissa is also on the Saturday youth show, "Click," both on GMA-7.

"Mesmerizing Marissa" is produced by Manila Centennial Lions Club District 301-A1. For tickets, call 753-04607.

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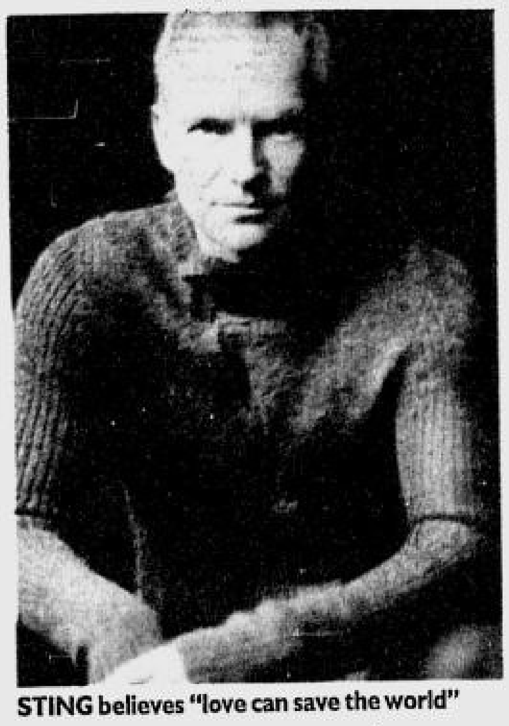
Lucky K-Lite listener to meet Sting in HK



STING believes "love can save the world"

103.5 K-LITE celebrates its eighth anniversary with a spectacular treat for its listeners: the K-Lite Sight & Sound Spectacular Series 7 featuring Sting in Hong Kong.

The K-Lite Sight & Sound Spectacular series takes its listeners to the best sights in the world where the best bands and artists perform live.

To make the celebration more exciting for its listeners, 103.5 K-Lite and Universal Music Philippines (UMP) launched a radio contest, "Sting Musical Collage," which runs until Oct. 28. Listeners are asked to identify Sting's five hit songs in the musical collage. Every day, 10 winners are chosen. They qualify for the grand draw on the last day of the contest.

The grand prize is a round-trip ticket to Hong Kong, where Sting is scheduled to perform in a concert. The winner be able to watch Sting live and also have the chance to meet him.

The contest is open to all 103.5 K-lite listeners who are at least 19 years old at the time of the contest and with a valid passport.

In time for the contest is the release of Sting's latest CD album from UMP, "Sacred Love," at all music shops in the Philippines. Written after the 9/11 New York tragedy and during the height of the Iraq war, "Sacred Love" deals with love and religion. It embodies Sting's message that "love can save the world."

The CD features special guest Mary J. Blige on the track "Whenever I Say Your Name." Its carrier song, "Send Your Love," is high on 103.5 K-lite's playlist.

Ipanema Bar marks birthday with nightly acoustic shows

PRAIA de Ipanema Bar and Restaurant at the Eastwood City Walk assembles the country's top acoustic artists as it marks its second anniversary with a two-week nightly show titled "It's ur Birthday."

Dynamic duo Dominic and Burton kicked off the birthday bash last Monday, while boy band quartet Shema did their thing last night.

Tonight, Luke Mejares takes center stage with his first-ever acoustic act.

Balladeer Jeffrey Hidalgo and Sole Acoustix liven up the anniversary night tomorrow, Oct. 23. Dance music lovers can bop the night away on Oct. 25 at the Saturday night R & B party with DJ Victor at the turntable.

The celebration resumes with Jimmy Bondoc on Oct. 27, the Essence Band featuring vocalist Kiko Versoza on Oct. 28, and R & B band K 24/7 on Oct. 29.

Finally, boy wonder Francis "Wings" Soriano and Sole Acoustix cap the gig week as they rock restless souls on Oct. 30. Guests who come in Halloween costumes will get special treats and freebies.

The shows, which start at 9:30 p.m., are presented in cooperation with San Mig Light, Jose Cuervo Gold, Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3 and 103.5 K-Lite. For inquiries, call 421-7764 or 65 or text 0920-9051332.

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Editor Louie C. Camino

'Rivals' in back-to-back concert

Gary V: I'll show you what Martin is really like

By Marinel R. Cruz

GARY Valenciano and Martin Nievera may have a back-to-back concert in 2004, almost 20 years since they burst into show biz and started their "rivalry."

The Gary-Martin showdown may happen either in Manila or on a US tour, according to Mr. Pure Energy himself.

"The show will not be *pasiklaban*," said Gary V during lunch last Monday, "because if not for Martin, I would not be around, and vice versa. We complement each other."

MR. PURE Energy acknowledges that "if not for Martin (far left), I would not be around, and vice versa"

Gary said that for the planned show, he wished to show audiences a side of Martin that people do not normally see. "People are used to seeing Martin so talkative and bubbly. I've been with him when he's quiet, thoughtful and subdued. That is what I want people to see."

Gary said his friendship with Martin dates back to the time when his wife, Angeli Pangilinan, gave birth to their eldest son, Paolo, now 19.

"Martin was in the delivery room taking videos of Angeli delivering the baby," Gary recalled.

"Nothing came out of the video, though," he added. "I think it got overexposed. But you'd hear Martin telling my wife, 'Push! Push! You can do it! Push!'"

Gary said Martin had been really depressed when the latter returned home last May from his successful series of shows in Las Vegas, because news of his breakup with girlfriend Katrina Ojeda had preceded him.

"We were on the same plane," Gary said. "He was sad because he said nobody would remember what he did in Las Vegas. I gave him words of encouragement. I sort of reintroduced him to God."

But before the planned Gary-Martin showdown, Mr. Pure Energy is busy preparing for a concert at the Araneta Coliseum on Nov. 28 and 29.

The concert, "Gary V XXtreme," is the culmination of Gary's yearlong celebration of his 20th anniversary in show business. The concert will also feature Jaya, Luke Mejares, Jay R, The Manoeuvres and other surprise guests.

Gary said he is happy with Martin's flourishing career, including his series at the Golden Nugget Hotel in Las Vegas.

"He has his career, I have my family," said Gary. "I don't know if he'd be able to survive if his career were down and then he had no family to hold on to."

Gary is father to Paolo, Gabriel, 15, and Kiana, 10. If it were only up to him, he said, he wanted one more child, but Angeli's doctor would not allow it. He said Angeli has scoliosis, and having a fourth child would increase the possibility of harming her or the baby.

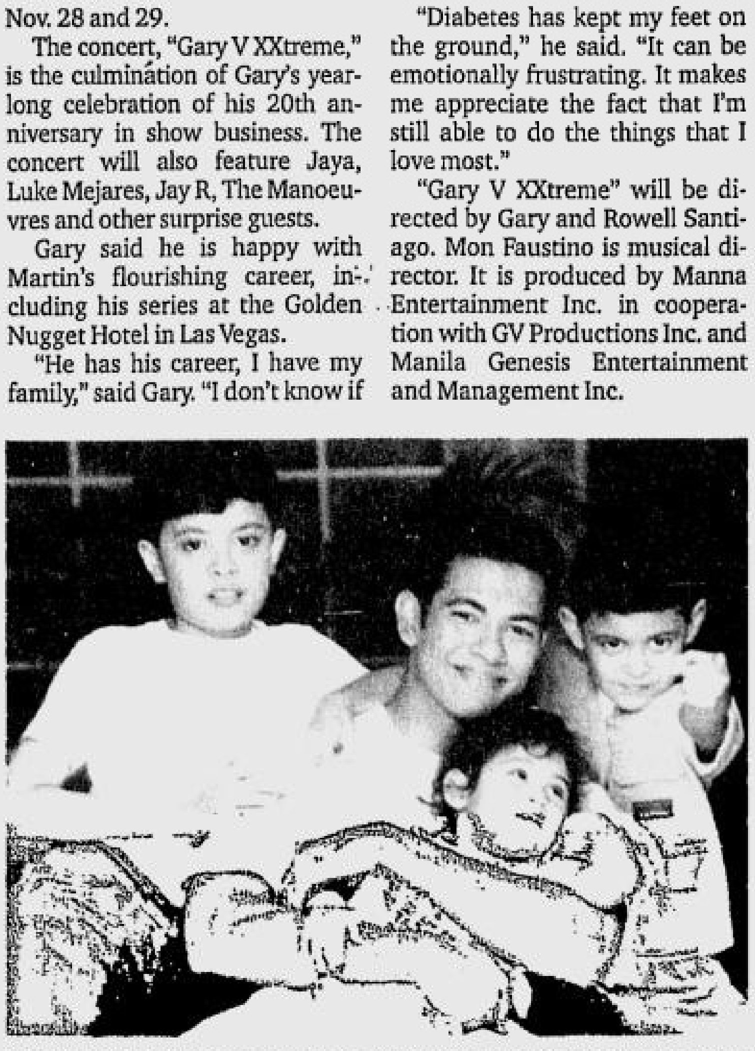
Gary himself has been battling a serious illness since he was 14. He is a Type 1 (juvenile/insulin-dependent) diabetic. His sugar level is constantly being monitored and his diet controlled.

"I watch my weight," said the 168-lb singer. "I also try not to push myself to the limit. Performing and taping for long hours really affects my sugar level."

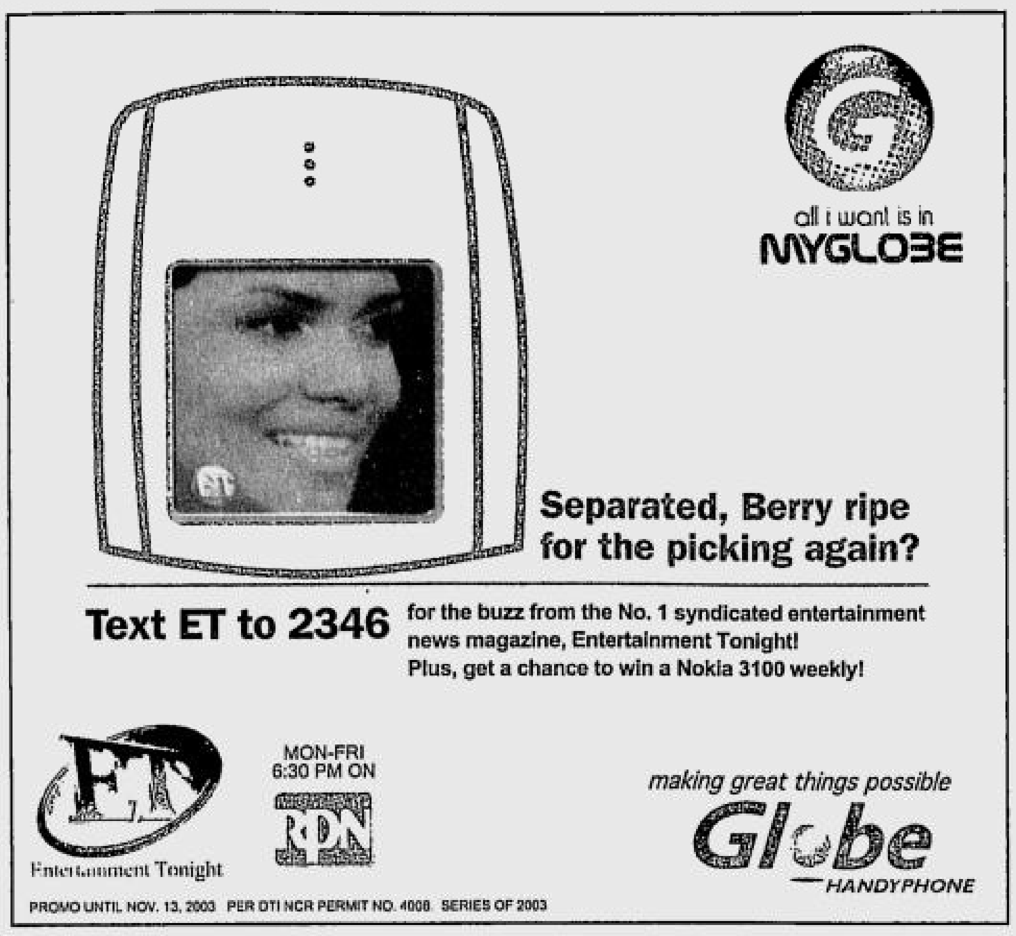
During his shows, like his recent "Gary V Hits Music Museum" series, he checks his sugar level four to five times before and once after the show. "It's better if my sugar level is a little high than low when I retire for the night," he explained. To prepare for a show, he eats protein-rich food and exercises a lot.

"Diabetes has kept my feet on the ground," he said. "It can be emotionally frustrating. It makes me appreciate the fact that I'm still able to do the things that I love most."

"Gary V XXtreme" will be directed by Gary and Rowell Santiago. Mon Faustino is musical director. It is produced by Manna Entertainment Inc. in cooperation with GV Productions Inc. and Manila Genesis Entertainment and Management Inc.



3 IS IT. Gary V surrounded by Paolo (left), Kiana and Gabriel years earlier



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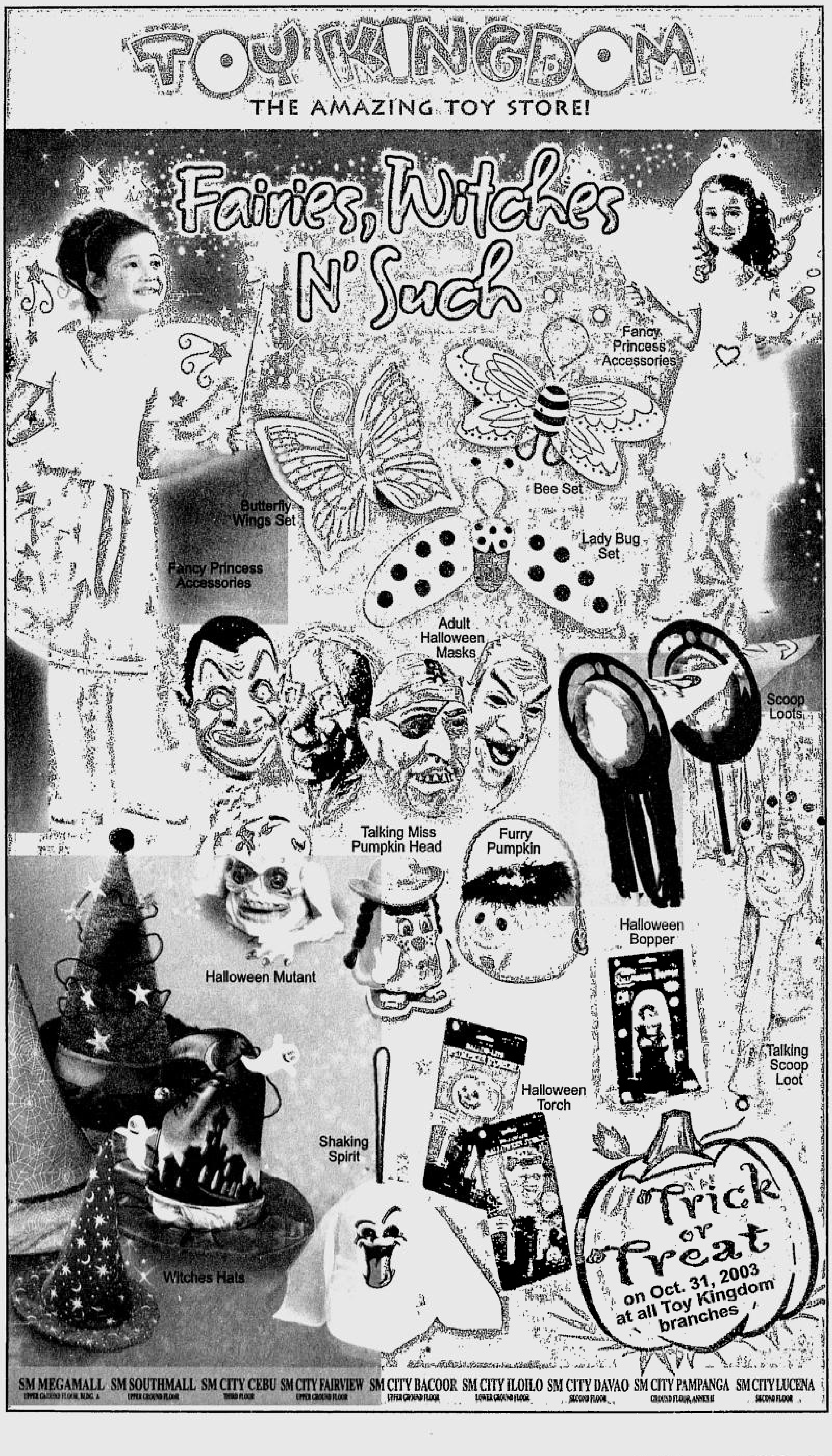

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UNAUTHORIZED CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

ERC probes Meralco, 13 other utilities

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission is investigating the country's biggest power distributor, Manila Electric Co., and 13 other utilities for possible unauthorized capital expenditures, ERC Chair Manuel Sanchez said yesterday.

In a briefing with reporters, Sanchez said these firms would be slapped fines of between P50,000 and P50 million each if found guilty of violating the regulation on capital expenditures.

"Utilities are required to seek the ERC's approval for any electric capital expenditure projects," Sanchez explained.

Commonwealth Act 146 requires electric distribution utilities to seek the approval of regulators before building, operating or maintaining new facilities or services, or extending existing facilities.

Sanchez said capital expenditures, being part of the cost of doing business, could be part of what a utility was recovering from consumers through higher rates.

"Capital expenses need to be regulated to ensure that utilities do not incur unnecessary costs," he explained.

The other utilities under probe, according to ERC records, are Angeles Electric Co., Cabanatuan Electric Corp., Cotabato Light and Power Co., Cagayan Electric Power & Light Co., Dagupan Electric Corp., Ibaan Electric and Engineering Corp., Iligan Light Power Inc., La Union Electric Co., Manson's Corp., Mactan Electric Co., Panay Electric Co., San Fernando Electric Light and Power Co., and Tarlac Electric Co. Inc.

A government source earlier said that Meralco undertook 279 capital projects between 1994 and 2000 without the commission's approval.

Estimates show that these projects cost about P8 billion.

When reached by the INQUIRER for comment, Meralco officials declined to give any.

In an interview earlier this month, Meralco president Jesus Francisco said the company was planning to spend P6 billion for various projects but that it had only P5 billion in available funds.

Also, Meralco filed with the ERC last Oct. 10 an application for authority to raise its rates by 13.58 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

In an Oct. 13 statement, Meralco lawyer Wigberto Tañada said that

ERC/ B4

Texas Instruments expands Baguio plant capacity

By Michelle V. Remo

TEXAS Instruments Philippines Inc., a unit of one of the biggest producers of semiconductor and electronics products in the US, has spent about $70 million for the acquisition of additional manufacturing equipment in anticipation of an increase in demand for its product starting late this year.

The company has also expanded by 60,000- square-feet or 20 percent its manufacturing facility in Baguio City to increase production capacity, said Texas Instruments president Norberto Viera.

"Together with the entire industry, we expect the market, which has been weak during the start of the year, to make an upturn beginning the fourth quarter of this year," he told reporters during the sidelights of the 5th CEO Forum of the electronics and semiconductor industry yesterday.

He said Texas Instruments had already been feeling the strengthening of demand for its products. The company posted a 50-percent increase in sales in October compared with previous month's level. He added that the rise in demand for electronics and semiconductors in the

TEXAS/ B3

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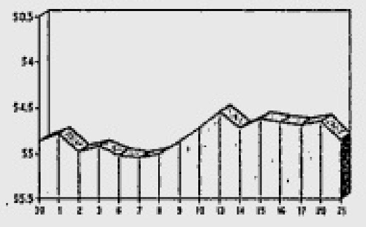

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STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

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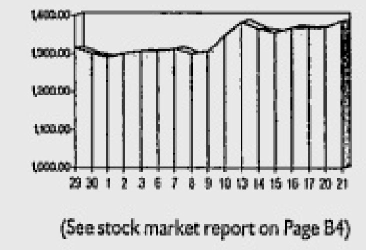


(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks end up

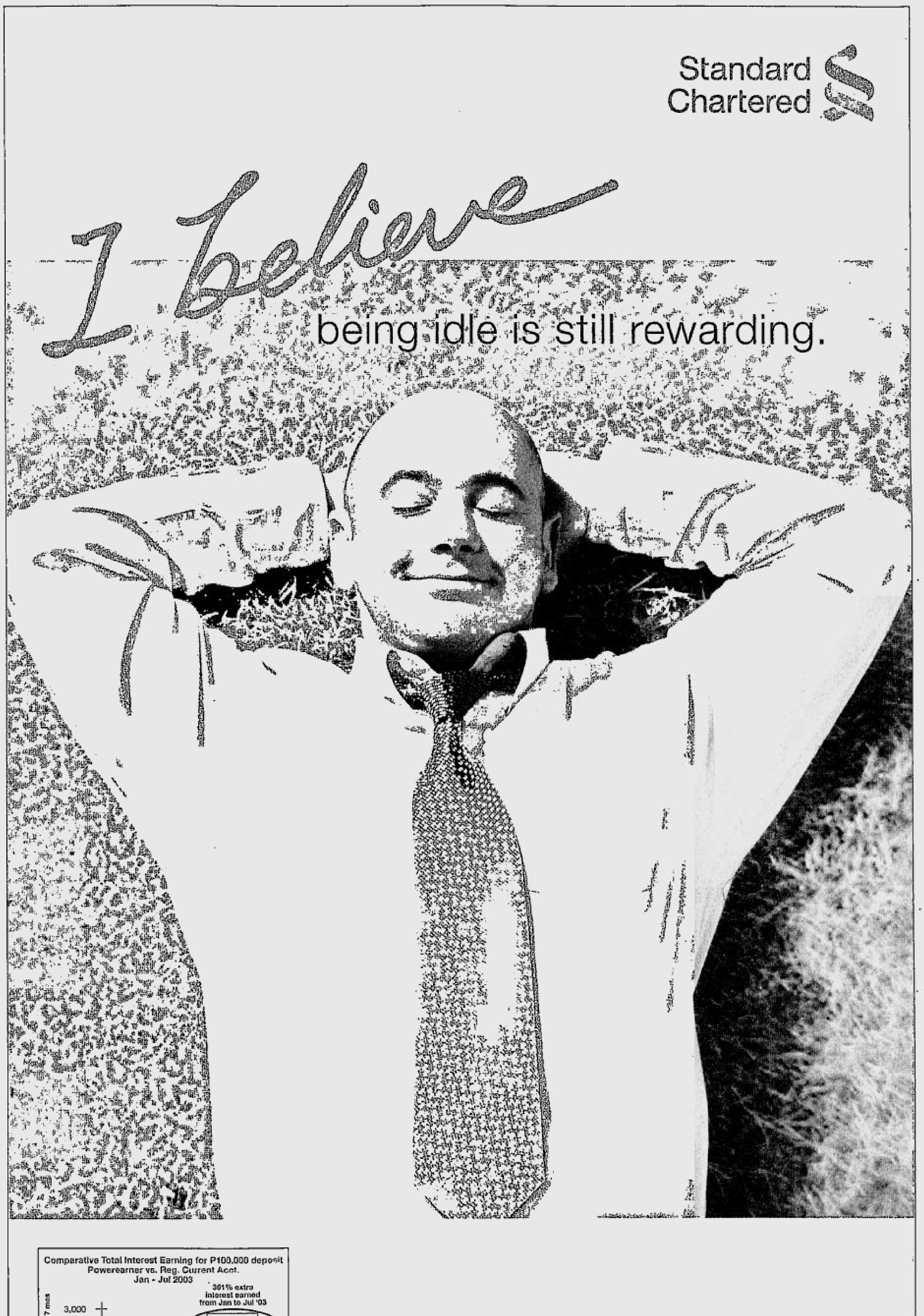
STOCKS rose more than 1 percent yesterday, largely on the back of a surge in the country's largest phone firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co (PLDT) to a 31-month high, traders said.

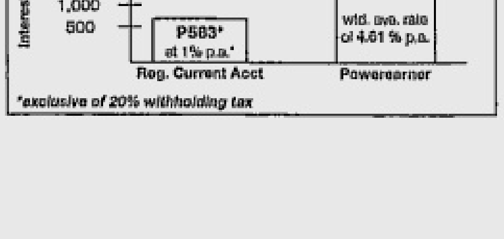
Gains in Ayala group stocks also aided the market with holding firm Ayala Corp leading the way on hopes for improved earnings after the purchase of an additional stake in its mobile phone unit Globe Telecom .

The main index closed up 17.23 points, or 1.26 percent, at 1,386.09. Turnover pulled back to P755.1 million after Monday's hefty P1.13 billion, which was largely driven by cross transactions in Globe.

"Basically, the gains today were brought about by the rise in PLDT and Ayala Corp," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc.

PLDT was aided by the rise in its American Depository Receipts (ADRs) traded in New York while some investors took the view that the incremental revenue from an additional stake in Globe could help Ayala Corp's earnings outlook." *Reuters*





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Treasury may accept higher T-bill bids

By Doris C. Dumlao

NATIONAL Treasurer Sergio Edeza yesterday said the government might accept higher offers for the bellwether 92-day Treasury bills.

"I think the market will push it to 6 percent," he added.

He said market players would likely submit bids closer to the overnight borrowing rate of the central bank.

The BSP chief said that not even pressures arising from the preparations for the 2004 presidential elections would likely jack up the T-bill rates next year.

Asked whether the Treasury would allow the 91-day T-bill to move up, Edeza said: "We have to allow our rates to adjust. There has to be volume. We have to make the market buy our bills."

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, however, remains confident that the 91-day T-bill rate is not likely to exceed 6 percent this year. This was in view of the benign inflation and the stable peso-dollar exchange rate.

During the last T-bill auction held by the Bureau of Treasury last week, the 91-day rate, which is used by banks as benchmark for their lending rates, averaged at 5.629 percent.

"Interest rates will stay low. At the most, it (91-day T-bill) will hit 6 percent," Buenaventura said in a press briefing late Monday, noting that it was the BSP's interest to maintain a low-interest rate regime.

The BSP's borrowing rate is currently pegged at 6.75 percent and its lending rate at 9 percent.

During the last 12 months, the country has seen some expansion in the loan portfolio of commercial banks, which indicated that more funds were being infused into the system to fuel the domestic economy.

Exclusion of Singapore issues from multilateral talks sought

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKOK, via PLDT—The Philippines led developing economies of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation in calling for the exclusion of 'contentious' issues from future multilateral trade discussions to bring the World Trade Organization agenda back on track.

Developing countries believed that sensitive issues, such as the Singapore issues, should be addressed by the governments of concerned nations.

The 21 Apec leaders agreed to the proposal of the Philippines and three other countries seeking flexibility in attaining an "ambitious and balanced outcome" of the free trade agenda.

The Asia Pacific leaders, in their declaration during the conclusion of the 11th Apec summit, also called for the strengthening of human security by aggressively supporting the campaign against terrorism and by energizing the non-binding organization (Apec) to make it more meaningful.

Disagreements over the so-called Singapore issues caused the collapse of the WTO talks in Cancun, Mexico.

The challenge now, according to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is to save the Doha Development Agenda previously committed under WTO before the Cancun talks collapsed.

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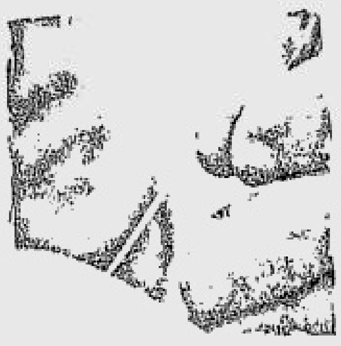

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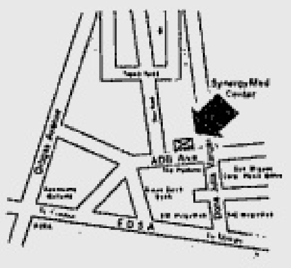

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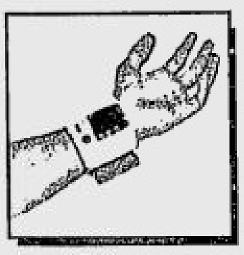

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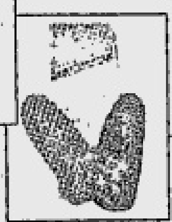

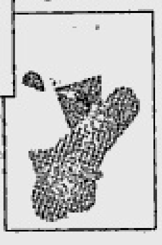

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

To All Stockholders:

Please be informed that the annual stockholders' meeting of **ASIATRUST DEVELOPMENT BANK, INC.** ("the Corporation") will be held on **November 21, 2003, FRIDAY** at **2:00 P.M.** at the Skytop 14th Floor, Hotel Intercontinental, No. 1 Ayala Avenue, 1226 Makati City.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on 27 October 2003 as the date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice and to vote at the said annual meeting. Accordingly, only stockholders of this date shall be entitled to notice of said meeting.

Stockholders not attending may submit a PROXY instrument to the Corporate Secretary on or before 11 November 2003. Proxies received after the said date shall not be recorded and honored. Corporate stockholders are requested to attach to the PROXY INSTRUMENT their respective Board Resolution on the authority of their proxies.

On the day of the meeting, Stockholders and Proxies are hereby required **TO BRING THIS NOTICE AND ANY FORM OF IDENTIFICATION**, i.e. driver's license, Company ID, TIN Card, etc. to facilitate registration. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m. and closes at exactly 1:45 p.m. The meeting is expected to adjourn at 3:30 p.m.

Copies at the Minutes of the previous Annual Stockholders' Meeting shall be posted and made available at the Registration area for your perusal.

For your information and guidance.

27 October 2003

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Texas Instruments expands Baguio plant capacity

From page B1

last quarter of this year could be propelled by Christmas season spending, and should therefore be validated by the demand level in the first quarter of 2004.

Viera, who is also the president of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industry of the Philippines Inc., said Texas Instruments had been experiencing rise in sales particularly in the mobile and wireless segments.

Addressing forum participants, Viera said industry members should also now prepare their production capacities for the expected increase in demand.

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NISSAN U.N. AVENUE Tel. Nos. 400-1020, 400-2177, 400-1522, 525-9064 loc. 128
NISSAN ALABANG Tel. Nos. 873-2845, 873 2771, 8732779, 873-2860
CORE AUTOMOTIVE RESOURCES (CAR), Inc. Tel. Nos. 818-9404, 892-6242, 893 9221, 810-0151 to 55 local 315

LUZON
NISSAN SOUTHWOODS Tel. Nos. (046) 430-1691 to 94, 430-1604, (02) 845-1680
NISSAN NAGA Tel. Nos. (054) 472-3577 to 78
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NISSAN CEBU DIST. Tel. Nos. (032) 340-0960, (032) 346 8422 to 25, (032) 345-1124
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GENERAL SANTOS Tel. No. (083) 552-3228

PNB swings back to profit

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE National Bank, the country's fourth-largest lender, said on Tuesday it returned to profit in the first nine months of the year thanks to higher fee-based income and a cut in its operating costs.

PNB said in a statement that it posted a profit of P127 million as of end-September, a reversal from the P1.52-billion loss it recorded in the same period last year.

This means the bank, on the second year of a five-year rehabilitation program, recorded a net income of P36 million in the third quarter from a net loss of P12 million in the same period last year, and a net income of P91 million in the first half from a net loss of P1.4 billion last year.

"The positive results of operations were due to substantial improvements in net interest margin, higher fee-based income and reduction in operating expenses." PNB president and chief executive Lorenzo Tan said in a statement yesterday.

Tan said PNB's performance was worth taking note of, especially since PNB has consistently posted a profit since the start of the year.

He added that the bank's interest expenses in the first nine months fell 10.5 percent to P4.24 billion from last year's P4.74 billion.

"The improving cost of funds due to a more favorable deposit mix and better pricing of loans and deposits were mainly responsible for the positive margin during the first nine months of 2003," the bank said.

The bank said its fee-based income expanded 17 percent to P3.76 billion from the year-ago P3.22 billion due to changes in its pricing of products and services.

The bank also cited the introduction of the Priority One checking account targeted at high net worth clients, the launch of the year-long promo to encourage OFWs and their beneficiaries to increase their deposit balances, and a successful deposit campaign among employees to solicit new deposit accounts for the increase in its low-cost deposit base.

The low cost checking and savings account deposits comprised 43 percent of total deposits as of end-September this year. Total deposits grew by P11.86 billion in the first nine months, up 9 percent from P149 billion at the end of last year.

Meanwhile, PNB said it booked P1.8 billion in sales of real and other owned and acquired property. *With a report from Reuters.*

Petron reports ₱2-B in profit

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL oil giant Petron Corp. yesterday reported a 10 percent increase in its earnings for the first nine months to P2.02 billion from P1.84 billion in the same period last year.

Petron said in a statement that the profit increase was due to higher revenues and lower operating costs.

The oil refiner said its sales for the period rose by 22.7 percent to P81.1 billion from P66.1 billion last year.

Total sales volume, however, grew by only 2 percent from 36.15 million barrels in the first nine months of 2002 to 37 million barrels this year, indicating that earnings rose due to higher selling prices for petroleum products.

Petron added that a 27-percent growth in exports—from 5.13 million barrels in the first nine months of 2002 to 6.51 million barrels this year—helped drive the company's revenues up.

"Despite severe competition from (established) and new players, sales to the retail sector grew by 4 percent over the same period the previous year," Petron added.

Petron, meanwhile, said operating expenses in the first three quarters went down by 7 percent to P2.62 billion compared to P2.82 billion posted in the first nine months of last year.

The cut in operating expenses was attributed to "improvements in operating efficiency as well as the company's ongoing cost management programs."

Ayala offshore subsidiary takes out $100-M loan

AC INTERNATIONAL Finance Ltd., a wholly-owned offshore unit of conglomerate Ayala Corp., has taken out a $100-million syndicated term loan to refinance maturing obligations in 2004.

Ayala said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that the term loan facility would be used to refinance the subsidiary's debt and not to fund the company's acquisition of 10.04 million shares of Globe Telecom Inc., the country's second largest mobile phone company.

German phone giant Deutsche Telekom AG said last week it was selling its 24.8 percent stake in Globe to co-owners Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom Pte. Ltd., a wholly owned unit of Singapore Telecommunications Ltd., at P680 per share.

Ayala appointed BNP Paribas, Standard Chartered Bank and ING Bank as arrangers of the loan facility required by its subsidiary.

Market sources said that the loan would be payable in five years with an interest rate of LIBOR plus 240 basis points for the first year.

Ayala Corp. currently has about $200 million in cash, which should be more than enough to finance the purchase of Globe shares. It also has around $135 million in maturing obligations this year.

Standard & Poor's Rating Services said Monday that Globe's plan to buy back 12 million of its shares from Deutsche Telekom AG would have no impact on the telecom firm's credit rating.

S & P noted that the rationale behind Globe's share buyback was mainly to improve shareholders' returns and obtain an optimum capital structure.

No further buyback was expected in the near term.

Globe had about P17 billion in cash as of end-June, more than enough to cover its short-term debt of P7.4 billion and finance the share buyback.

"The company's leverage and cash flow protections measures are expected to remain within the rating parameters," S&P said.

Elena R. Torrijos, Reuters

Chinatrust posts ₱473-M income

PUBLICLY listed Chinatrust (Phils.) Commercial Bank Corp. registered a 27 percent growth in net income in the first nine months of the year to P473 million from P373 million in the same period last year.

Chinatrust said in a statement yesterday that the better-than-expected income was brought about by sustained loan portfolio growth, continued improvement in risk asset quality, profitable treasury activities and prudent spending.

"The major sources of revenue for the bank continued to be interest on loans and investments and trading gains. The bank's conscious effort to rationalize expenses also contributed to the improvement in performance," Chinatrust President Joey A. Bermudez said.

The bank's net loan portfolio expanded 12 percent to P10.5 billion as of end-September versus P9.4 billion as of the end of last year.

"An improvement in the loan levels of the Taiwanese and middle market segment, as well as the mortgage and personal loan portfolios, accounted for this achievement," the bank said.

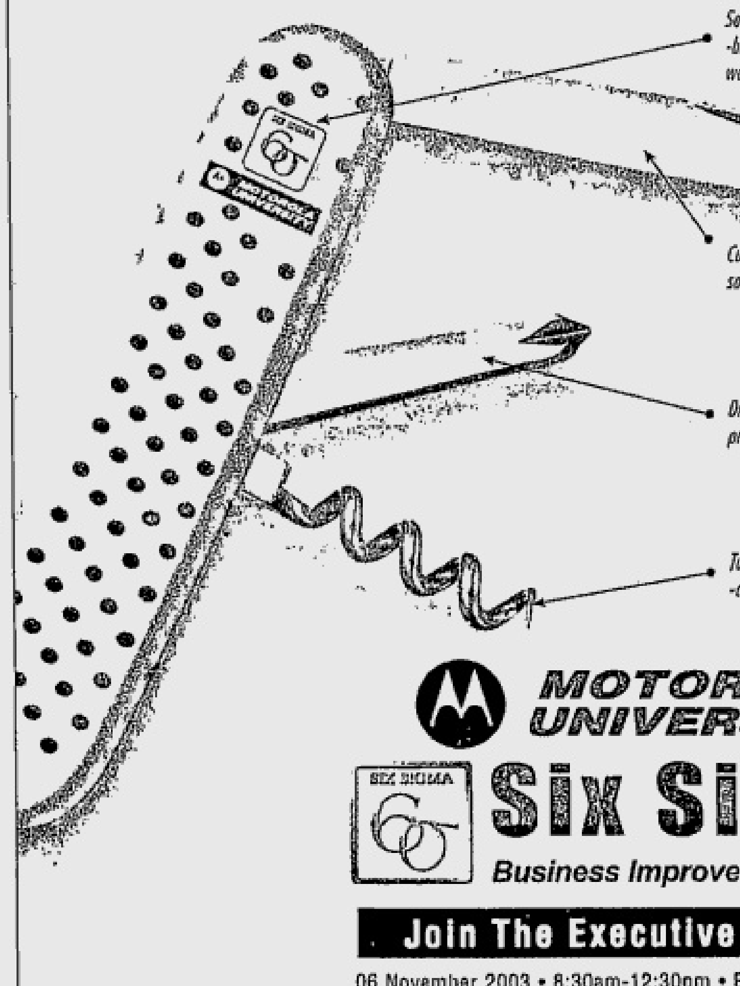
Despite the brisk expansion in its loan portfolio, Chinatrust managed to further bring down its non-performing loans to 4.45 percent of total loan portfolio as of end-September, from 4.59 percent as of end 2002.

This ratio is below the industry average of 14.42 percent as of the second quarter of the year.

The bank's NPL cover stood at 96 percent during the period, also much better than the industry average of only 56.58 percent as of the second quarter of the year.

The return on average assets and the return on average equity stood at 3.58 percent and 18.17 percent, respectively. These ratios exceeded performance in the same period last year of 3.07 percent and 15.81 percent, respectively.

As of the second quarter of the year, the bank said it ranked seventh among the most profitable banks in the country.



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Week 1: 11-15 August 2003	1-6 September 2003	Week 1: 08-12 December 2003	26-31 January 2004
Week 2: 22-26 September 2003		Week 2: 19-23 January 2004	
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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 21, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4	4	4	26,000
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	10,500
Bank Of The Phil. Islands	45	45	44.5	45	229,800
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,200
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	36.5	36.5	35.5	36	79,100
Export And Ind. Bank Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.75	0.75	860,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28.5	28.5	28	28	28,900
Philippine National Bank	27	28	27	28	36,000
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	5,000
Union Bank Of The Phil.	31	31	31	31	5,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	38,000
First Abacus Financial	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	840,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1600	1600	1600	1600	520
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	97,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1325	1325	1325	1325	3,730
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	27.5	28	27.5	28	18,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.72	2,660,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	760	760	755	760	80,590
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	2,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.044	0.047	0.042	0.047	42,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.87	0.88	0.86	0.86	12,220,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	745	770	745	765	537,630
Ivantage Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	32,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	32,600
Manila Electric Co. B	21.75	21.75	21.5	21.75	308,700
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.04	2,413,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.06	2.1	2.06	2.1	7,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	700,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	77,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.43	0.43	140,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	130,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3	3	2.9	2.9	27,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	13,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	1,046,800
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	190,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	57	56	56.5	74,900
San Miguel Corp. B	62	63	62	62.5	323,300
Universal Robina Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	20,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5	5.1	5	5.1	14,528,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.45	3.45	3.4	3.4	1,071,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	45,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	90,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.7	1.7	25,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.59	0.59	7,810,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	500,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	330,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	308,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.7	1.7	254,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	75,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	2,032,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	9,540,000
Music Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	270,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.25	0.28	620,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	110,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	210,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	2,600,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	3,900
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	1,490,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	230,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	28	28	28	28	101,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,900
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	10,000
Far Eastern University	400	400	400	400	60
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	2,691,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	80,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.245	0.22	0.235	26,200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.24	7,770,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.16	10,283,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	11,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.08	31,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	7,098,000
MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	3,570,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	5,210,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	43,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.009	42,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	17,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	2,600,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	310,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0036	0.0038	0.0034	0.0034	368,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	42,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	550,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000

DISCLOSURES

ASIA Amalgated Holdings Corp.'s head office transferred to the upper ground floor if Pearl Plaza Building, Qurino Ave., Barangay Tambo, Paranaque City.

***

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission approved the increase in Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.'s authorized capital from 375 million to 510.7 million shares.

***

MARIO Aguas was elected board member of Dizon Copper-Silver Mines Inc.

***

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission denied Liberty Flour Mills Inc.'s request for reconsideration of the P100,000 penalty slapped on it.

***

POMPEYO Tiu and Regnar Rivera were elected directors of Balabac Resources & Holdings Co. Inc.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

October 21, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.85947572	1.000000	54.648000
Japan	Yen	0.007789	0.009063	0.495300
United Kingdom	Pound	1.436184	1.671000	91.316800
Hongkong	Dollar	0.110921	0.129057	7.052700
Switzerland	Franc	0.644865	0.750300	41.002400
Canada	Dollar	0.651513	0.758035	41.425100
Singapore	Dollar	0.49248	0.573000	31.313300
Australia	Dollar	0.595948	0.693385	37.892100
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.279837	2.652590	144.958700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.229194	0.266667	14.572800
Brunei	Dollar	0.491073	0.571363	31.223800
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000119	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021535	0.025056	1.369300
UAE	Dirham	0.234024	0.272287	14.879900
Euro	Euro	1	1.163500	63.582900
Argentina	Peso	0.30157	0.350877	19.174700
Brazil	REAL	0.298948	0.347826	19.008000
Denmark	Kroner	0.134627	0.156639	8.560000
India	Rupee	0.01899	0.022095	1.207400
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.226208	0.263193	14.383000
Mexico	New Peso	0.077277	0.089912	4.913500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.512936	0.596801	32.614000
Norway	Kroner	0.120462	0.140158	7.659400
Korea	Won	0.000729	0.000848	0.046300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025428	0.029586	1.616800

ERC probes Meralco . . .

From page B1

while the company's unbundling of rates—which resulted in a rate increase of 8.65 centavos per kWh—was implemented only starting in June, the new rates were based on assets appraised in 1999.

"Further, the company's revenue requirement was determined using year 2000 financial statements," Tañada said.

The former senator added that Meralco was asking the ERC to "provisionally approve" the petition as the need for an adjustment was urgent.

Meralco said the Electric Power Industry Reform Act allowed utilities to revalue assets once every three years.

The company added that its financial condition, particularly its cash flow constraints, remained critical due to the combined need to operate and maintain its distribution system, undertake planned capital projects and service maturing loans.

Missed Fortune

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

FROM questioning the SEC order to reduce his multi-million-peso pay package, ASB receiver Fortunato "Fortune" Cruz has taken to outrightly defying the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The latest flap with City Hall involves the desire of the former vice chair of Joaquin Cunanan/Price Waterhouse audit firm to hold on to the P150-million worth of tax credit certificates of the ASB Group, notwithstanding an SEC en banc order directing Cruz to turn over the financial instruments to the commission.

For his continued refusal, the SEC now wants Cruz "to show cause…why he should not be punished for contempt for his disobedience."

The ASB receiver has until today to submit his reply.

(Late-breaker: the sought-after tax credit certificates were finally delivered to the SEC before today's deadline, according to the grapevine.)

Cruz previously told the SEC that the ASB had no need for the TCCs as the hobbled realty firm had no tax obligations from which the tax credits may be applied.

Now the SEC, agreeing with developer Luke Roxas, wants to sell those TCCs and apply the proceeds to fund unfinished ASB condominium projects in Ortigas and Legaspi Village, especially with the Philamlife Group expressing interest in the ASB tax certificates.

Because of Cruz's insistence on hanging on to the TCCs, presumably because he can palm off the papers at a better price, the SEC has ordered Cruz to also show the list of buyers of the TCCs "with firm and definite offer under terms more favorable than Philamlife."

Before releasing the TCCs, Cruz wants first to be paid a 10 percent fee, or P15 million, for having successfully secured the release of the TCCs. But the SEC, saying that securing the release of the tax certificates is part of a receiver's functions, objected to Cruz claiming the 10 percent commission.

In hanging on to the tax certificates, the pro-Cruz theory says that Cruz would weaken his P15-million TCC claim against ASB/SEC now pending with the Court of Appeals if he agrees to release the certificates now.

Globe rocks subscribers

IN ITS latest attempt to retain the loyalty of their valued clients, Globe president Gerardo Ablaza is giving Platinum-level subscribers free tickets to this Saturday's 40th anniversary concert of the rock and roll station dzRJ at the Araneta Coliseum.

Globe's marketing spiel is "connecting generations," which the concert hopes to achieve among baby boomers and their kids by featuring rock and roll icons such as Pepe Smith and his model-singer daughter, Sampaguita and her son, and Elizabeth Ramsey and Jaya.

To the legions of fans of the Juan de la Cruz band, the Smith personal tidbit is a revelation.

Smith's 5'11" daughter, Sunya, who grew up in Singapore, did not know the real identity of her father until three years ago. But we will let father and daughter tell the rest of the story, lest we spoil the party.

Still Araneta country

THE COUNTRY Club developer Benito "Bomboy" Araneta still retains majority control of both the development company and the country's most exclusive golf club despite the entry of container terminal king Enrique Razon Jr.

This was clarified by Country Club counsel Perry Pe in reaction to a Monday item in this column.

Both Pe and Razon would only say that the transaction involved the transfer of a number of club shares in Razon's favor.

According to the grapevine, the deal was valued at P100 million and involved Razon's having acquired anywhere from 33 to 55 shares out of the total 400 issued club shares.

The proceeds of the Razon acquisition were applied by Araneta to help pay off bank loans obtained by the development company to finance the construction of the Canlubang golf course.

Heard through the grapevine

THE SUPREME Court has rejected attempts by Angelina "Chona" Mejia-Lopez to co-implead former Gov. Imelda "Emily" Relucio-Lopez—who married under Muslim arrangements Chona's husband ex-Rep. Alberto "Albertito" Lopez—in Chona's suit asking her estranged husband to render an accounting of their (Chona and Albertito's) conjugal assets.

"The administration of the property of the marriage is entirely between them (husband and wife), to the exclusion of all other parties," the court's Special First Division ruled, amid Chona's allegation that Albertito transferred most of their conjugal assets, including the estimated P1-billion Lopez inheritance, to Emily.

To placate the wife he abandoned in 1968, Albertito is proposing a 50-50 split of the conjugal assets between his children with Chona and Emily. Chona has so far rejected the Albertito formula, since Chona has four kids with Albertito and Emily only has two. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

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We are committed to the Sustainable Development of our local communities.

set well-defined CSR policies that address three major issues: education, sustainable livelihood, and infrastructure.

Our CSR policies as embodied in our SDMP was chosen as winner of the **Asian CSR Awards, Best CSR Policies** category, at the Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility held in Bangkok, Thailand, on Sept. 18 – 20, 2003.

The Best CSR Policies award was bestowed on UNION in recognition of our allocating resources for social development and for establishing clear policies to ensure sustainability that makes a difference..

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Shell Exploration helps farmers help themselves

SHELL Exploration B.V. believes the best programs for sustainable development are those that involve capability-building

CORPORATE CITIZEN

By Michelle V. Remo

WITH the complex social and environmental problems that came along with modernization and economic liberalization, the idea of "sustainable development" has never been more vital.

Sustainable development is loosely defined as achieving long-term economic progress without causing adverse effects on the environment and society.

Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX), the oil exploration arm of the Shell group of companies, espouses sustainable development as a corporate policy and one of the ways by which it expresses its commitment is by helping improve the skills of the members of the communities where it operates.

"SPEX believes that it is best to institute programs that will help people help themselves," says Karen Agabin, SPEX external affairs executive.

She says communities located near the base and pipelines of SPEX's Malampaya gas plant, which supplies 30 to 40 percent of the country's natural gas requirements, were chosen to be the initial beneficiaries of SPEX projects.

SPEX has sponsored skills-training programs for adults and out-of-school youth in select communities in Mindoro, Palawan and Batangas.

One of these programs is the Sanayan sa Kakayahang Agrikultura or Saka, which sought to teach farmers the latest farming technologies to increase their farms' production.

Another is the Sanayan sa Kakayahang Industriyal or SKIL, which provides the youth with industrial skills to help them land long-term employment. SPEX also organizes programs to develop the entrepreneurial skills of farmers, such as marketing, to complement their knowledge on farming.

"The increase in their produce brought about by their enhanced knowledge on farm production resulted in higher income and was further aided by entrepreneurial skills such as marketing," Agabin says.

Attesting to the success of the program is Saka beneficiary Jessie Abrogar, who took over the management of the farm from his father.

"My father is getting old, and so I wanted to take over his work in the field to finally allow him to rest," Abrogar said in Filipino.

Like the thousands of other youth-beneficiaries of the program, Jessie is grateful for the scholarship granted by SPEX.

Jessie said he was able to increase the production of his father's farm and even bought his own house and carabao because of the additional knowledge he got from the Saka program.

Like Jessie, William Corpus of Palawan made drastic improvements in what used to be barren farmland through a training program sponsored by SPEX.

He narrated how his family was desperately seeking measures to produce crops from their farmland. They thought that they would never be able to coax some production out of their land, but through hard work and the application of the knowledge they gained from Integrated Farming Bio-Systems program of Spex, the Corpus farm is now teeming with crops.

"We are now able to afford to buy more than just our basic needs," he says.

"Truly, there is a God that listens to our needs," adds William's mother, who almost gave up hope of finding a way to make both ends meet.

William, overjoyed by his family's success in farming, believes he now has his own piece of paradise.

"I feel so lucky. Imagine, I already feel like I am in paradise even though I am still very much alive," William says.

SPEX is grateful that its projects has produced tangible benefits to the host communities. Spex says that helping farmers improve their lives is just one way of paying back the communities for the economic benefits that they got out of the operation of the Malampaya field.

"SPEX is very pleased to witness the developments in the community-beneficiaries and to know that our projects leave something behind for the people, long after our projects end," Agabin says.

In Sitio Agusuhin, Subic Bay, SPEX, through Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc., launched healthcare programs, specifically addressing the growing incidence of dengue fever.

Sitio Agusuhin was SPEX's neighbor from 1998 to 2000 during the construction of the Malampaya platform base.

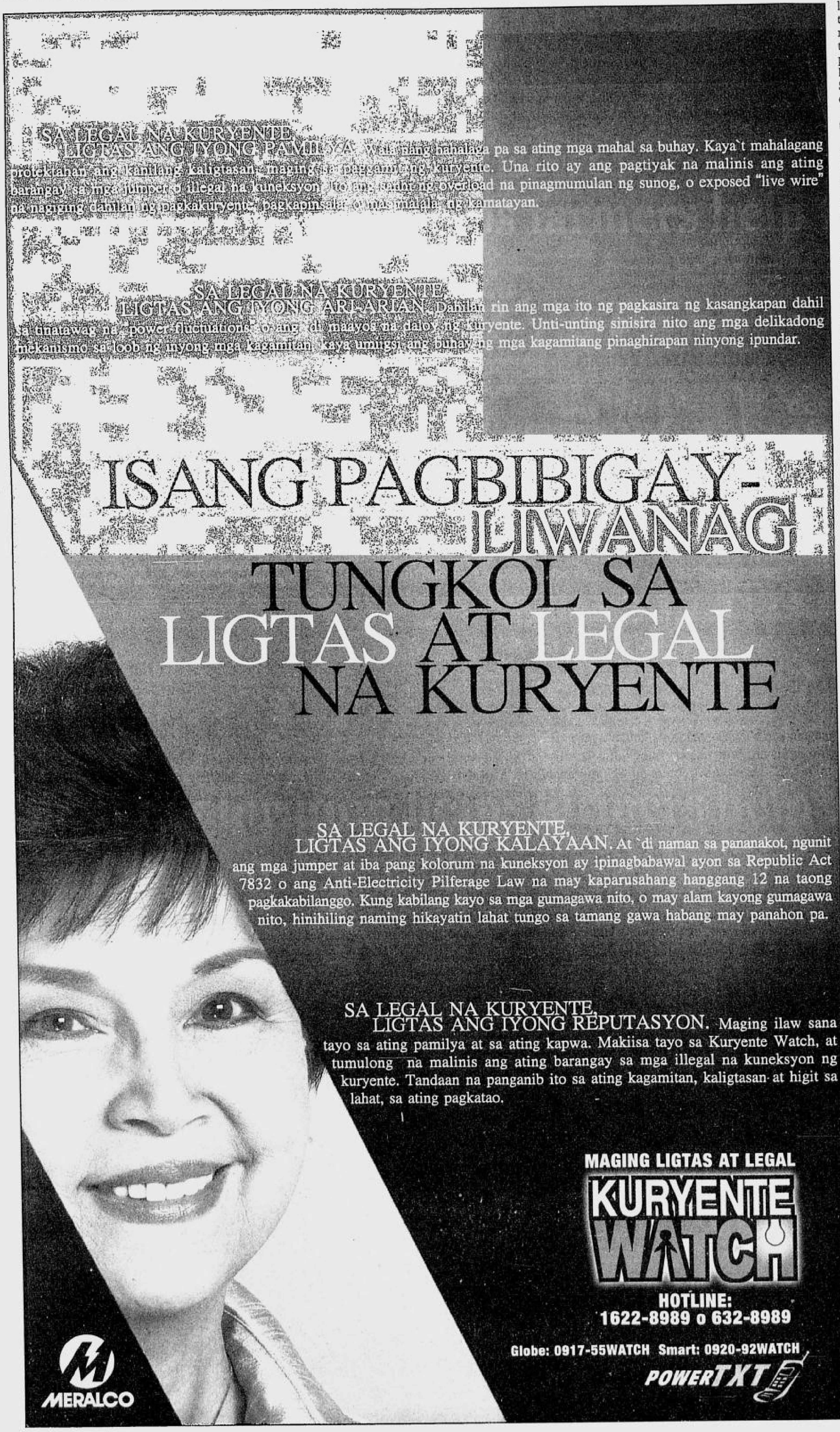
In Palawan, meanwhile, about 24,000 individuals had undergone testing for malaria and the victims were given medication.

By teaming up with the local government and the Kilusang Ligtas Malaria (KLM), SPEX instituted community-awareness programs to help eradicate the community's health problem. SPEX also funded the upgrading of the community's hospital to further address patients' needs.

In Oriental Mindoro, meanwhile, SPEX established various livelihood activities such as aquaculture, hog-raising and garments manufacturing.

In an effort to help the environment, SPEX has linked up with World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines to implement study programs to conserve the endangered Irrawaddy dolphins, and with the Fauna and Flora International to save Mindoro's ecosystem from destruction through environmental education and advocacy.

SPEX has also initiated the Sagipin ang Bayakan (Save the Bats) program to help save the bat species by planting over 20,000 fruit-bearing trees, considered as the bats' nesting and feeding grounds.



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SA LEGAL NA KURYENTE,
LIGTAS ANG IYONG ARI-ARIAN. Dahilan rin ang mga ito ng pagkasira ng kasangkapan dahil sa tinatawag na "power fluctuations" o ang 'di maayos na daloy ng kuryente. Unti-unting sinisira nito ang mga delikadong mekanismo sa loob ng inyong mga kagamitan kaya umiigsi ang buhay ng mga kagamitang pinaghirapan ninyong ipundar.

ISANG PAGBIBIGAY-LIWANAG
TUNGKOL SA
LIGTAS AT LEGAL
NA KURYENTE

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LIGTAS ANG IYONG KALAYAAN. At `di naman sa pananakot, ngunit ang mga jumper at iba pang kolorum na kuneksyon ay ipinagbabawal ayon sa Republic Act 7832 o ang Anti-Electricity Pilferage Law na may kaparusahang hanggang 12 na taong pagkakabilanggo. Kung kabilang kayo sa mga gumagawa nito, o may alam kayong gumagawa nito, hinihiling naming hikayatin lahat tungo sa tamang gawa habang may panahon pa.

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Banks declare failed bidding for NSC assets

By Doris C. Dumlao

CREDITORS of shuttered National Steel Corp. yesterday declared a failed bidding for the takeover of the steel firm, junking separate offers from two foreign companies affiliated with the Mittal family of India.

In an interview with INQUIRER, NSC liquidator Danilo Concepcion said the company's creditor-banks led by Philippine National Bank informed him after their meeting yesterday that they decided to reject the offers of Global Infrastructure Holdings Ltd. and LMN Group.

"They declared a failure of bidding," Concepcion said.

An official of one of NSC's creditor-bank said the banks wanted a better package.

Sources privy to the bidding added the banks were now left with two options: to call for another round of bidding or negotiate with interested parties, including the existing bidders.

The decision to declare a failed bidding, however, would make it difficult for the government to reopen the NSC mill in Iligan by February next year as earlier planned.

The creditor-banks conducted a bidding for the lease of NSC's assets but was open to selling the assets.

RP attractive secondary mart for investors

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES might not lose all possible foreign investments to emerging China as it has enough of the right qualities to make it an attractive market for multinational companies.

This was the assessment made by Salomon Smith Barney's Simon Parker, who urged local companies to fully maximize the country's potentials in sustaining business to do away with the perception that the Philippines is a riskier site for investments as compared to China.

"There is a great difference between the perception of China and the reality of China. While it is a common perception that China is a safe haven for investment, that is not the case," said Parker while addressing members of the local semiconductor and electronics industry during a forum yesterday.

Parker, who is also managing director and head of Telecommunications, Media and Investment Banking, explained that China remains a government-controlled country with about 200 million people living below the poverty line.

These factors make it relatively difficult to move China's economy forward.

Parker also noted that the number of underemployed people in China is even greater than the population of the United Kingdom, France and Germany combined.

DOJ LIFTS HDOs ON STANDARD CHARTERED BANK EXECUTIVES

The Department of Justice last Friday lifted the Hold Departure Order which it issued last week on six executives of UK-based Standard Chartered Bank.

Declaring that a "thorough evaluation of the record and submission of both parties… reveals no ground for the continued enforcement of HDO No. 0913", Secretary Simeon Datumanong deleted the names of three foreign senior executives from the Hold Departure List and three Filipino officers from the Watchlist.

Commenting on this development, CEO Simon Morris said:

> "We have always maintained that we will defend the reputation of Standard Chartered Bank in the proper legal forum, so that this DOJ order lifting the HDO is a welcome development. We are confident that similar positive legal developments will prove that the single complainant who sought to blackmail the bank has nothing but spurious claims. In turn, this complainant, a terminated member of staff, should be taken to task for unfairly dragging Standard Chartered Bank in what has been purely an internal labor issue."
>
> The bank's external lawyer, Atty. Reynaldo Geronimo, suggested that the lifting of the HDO is indicative of the weakness of the syndicated estafa complaint recently filed at DOJ by Atty. Frank Chavez for his client Manuel Baviera, a former senior manager of Standard Chartered.

Atty. Geronimo commented:

> "We have always been confident that the HDO would be lifted, just as we continue to believe that a proper review would prove baseless the allegation of syndicated estafa complained by Frank Chavez' client. This development will also lead to the resolution of the cases of blackmail and perjury filed by the bank against the complainant for demanding US$ 2 million for settlement and for providing wrong information under oath to advance his personal interest. Finally, this should immediately resolve the labor case which the bank filed against Baviera at the NLRC which is now on its last stages."

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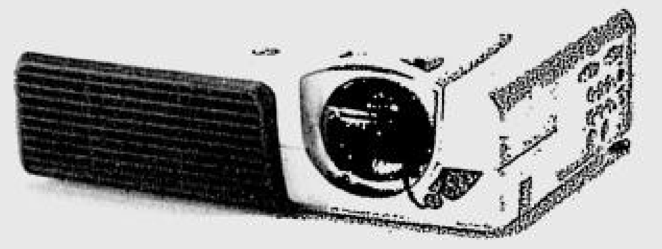

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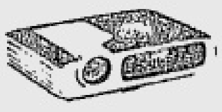

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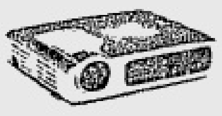

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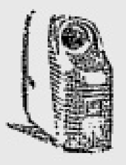

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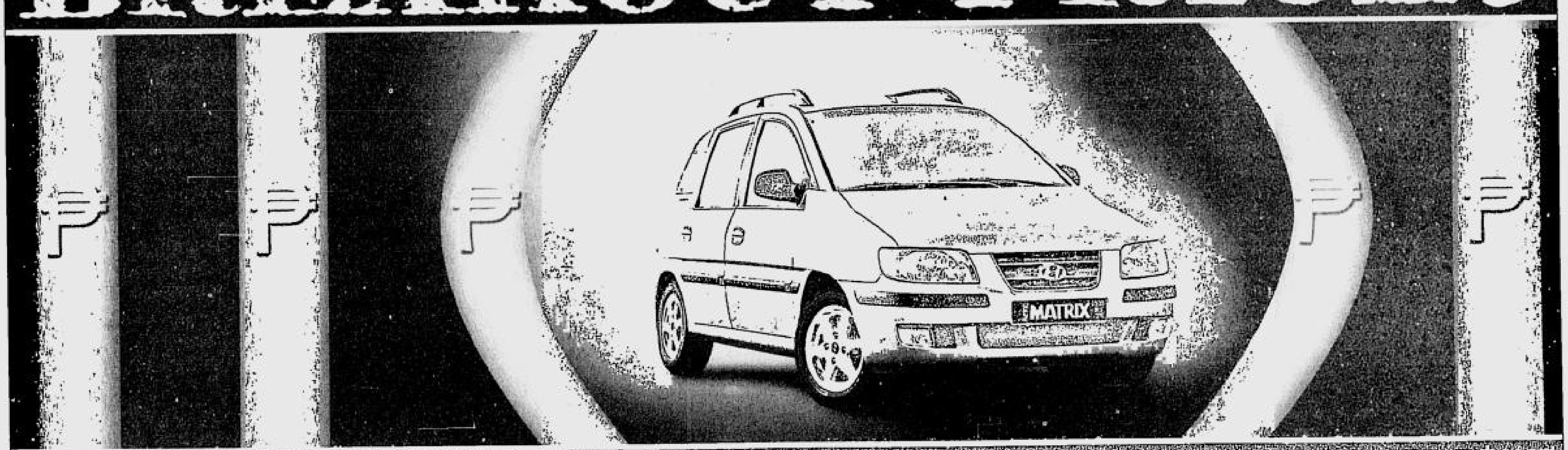

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Matrix AT	P 680,000.00	P 40,000.00	P 640,000.00

Financing Scheme 1: ZERO INTEREST

Variant	Matrix MT		Matrix AT	
SRP	P 625,000.00		P 680,000.00	
TERM	24 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	18 mos.
DP %	40%	20%	50%	30%
DP AMOUNT	P 250,000.00	P 125,000.00	P 340,000.00	P 204,000.00
Net Monthly Installment (Promo)	P 15,625.00	P 27,778.00	P 14,167.00	P 26,445.00
Net Monthly Installment (Regular)	P 18,906.00	P 31,219.00	P 17,142.00	P 29,721.00
Customer Savings	P 78,744.00	P 61,938.00	P 71,400.00	P 58,968.00

Financing Scheme 2: LOW DOWNPAYMENT

Matrix MT (SRP:P 625,000.00)

DP %	DP	PROMO DP	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
20%	125,000	80,000	23,888	17,089	13,789	12,159
30%	187,500	142,500	20,902	14,953	12,065	10,639
40%	250,000	205,000	17,916	12,817	10,341	9,119
50%	312,500	267,500	14,930	10,681	8,618	7,599

Matrix AT (SRP:P 680,000.00)

DP %	DP	PROMO DP	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
20%	136,000	91,000	25,990	18,593	15,002	13,229
30%	204,000	159,000	22,741	16,269	13,127	11,576
40%	272,000	227,000	19,492	13,945	11,251	9,922
50%	340,000	295,000	16,244	11,620	9,376	8,268

Financing Scheme 3: LOW MONTHLY AMORTIZATION

MATRIX MT

DP%	DP	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
20%	125,000	500,000	41,667	27,778	21,738	15,552	12,548	11,066
30%	187,500	437,500	36,459	24,306	18,753	13,415	10,825	9,545
40%	250,000	375,000	31,250	20,834	15,768	11,279	9,101	8,025
50%	312,500	312,500	26,042	17,362	13,021	9,143	7,377	6,506

MATRIX AT

DP%	DP	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
20%	136,000	544,000	45,334	30,431	23,841	17,055	13,761	12,135
30%	204,000	476,000	39,667	26,445	20,591	14,731	11,887	10,481
40%	272,000	408,000	34,000	22,667	17,344	12,407	10,011	8,828
50%	340,000	340,000	28,334	18,889	14,167	10,082	8,136	7,175

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
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Former medical rep copes with dread disease

NINI Maas-Siocon PHOTO BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

By Mario M. Banzon

CAREER TALES

NINI Maas was once a typical young urban professional or yuppie. Though she came from a poor family, it didn't stop her from getting the best education she could have. With hard work, she was able to secure a scholarship at the Ateneo de Manila University. After she finished a degree in Mass Communications, she buckled up and quickly joined the workplace.

Bright future

With cheerfulness and patience, she held two jobs at the same time. Her mornings were allotted for her work as a researcher while in the afternoons, she worked as a media representative for a fledgling radio station. When both jobs proved to be financially unfulfilling, she quit and became a medical representative.

At work, Nini was known to be industrious. There was this air about her that screamed efficiency, something that one acquires after years of being in a business where you are asked to do several things at the same time while under extreme pressure and tight schedules. The future was undoubtedly promising. She was young, healthy and earning good money, which was more than you could say for a girl in a city that always lacked opportunities.

Dread disease strikes

Then, tragedy hit her. She was working one day when blood suddenly dripped from her nostrils. Then, in another incident, she had fainting spells and began to vomit. She would eventually be diagnosed with an end stage renal disease, a complication that renders kidneys ineffective.

"It was like a calamity had hit me," she says in Filipino. "It was like coming home and finding our house burning." Eventually, she would have a kidney transplant but even that would fail. Gradually, she went broke, became jobless (she had to quit due to her failing health), and worse, had to resort to a costly weekly dialysis.

Today, Nini sells *siopao* on the streets with her husband, Benjamin Siocon. To say that their income isn't enough is a gross understatement. They make a measly P200 a day but have to cough up at least P6,000 a week for Nini's dialysis. One can only imagine the pressure the couple constantly faces. Every week, they have to have a certain amount of money that even average employees would find difficult to raise.

Resourcefulness

But the couple is undaunted. Whenever Nini is at the Philippine Kidney Dialysis Foundation waiting for her weekly dialysis, she takes the opportunity to sell costume jewelry to other patients while her husband scours the metropolis for money.

Fortunately, Nini also has supportive families and friends, for which she is very grateful. Among the friends who have helped her are her former office mates at Abbott Philippines. Some of them have even made a one year commitment to have certain amount deducted from their salaries every payday to help Nini. But still, even they admit that what they are giving is hardly sufficient for Nini's financial and medical needs.

Currently, Nini is hoping to raise at least P500,000 so she could undergo another kidney transplant while she is relatively strong. It's an urgent situation because her health can only go so far.

Struggling on

Looking at Nini now, one is struck with the fierceness lurking behind her eyes. It is a fierceness that has been shaped by disease, poverty and crushed dreams. She's been struggling with this disease for 11 years and her situation isn't getting any easier. In fact, Nini has seen families whose entire fortunes were wiped out because of debilitating diseases or husbands leaving wives because they could no longer do something for their spouses' failing health.

"I wouldn't be able to last this long if we didn't have a lot of faith," she says. "We are always hopeful that things will eventually get better." After all, hope and faith are what pulled her family through.

(For those who would like to help Nini Maas Siocon, she can be reached at tel. no. 713-1189. - Ed.)

'What are the limitations on foreigners working in the Philippines?'

CEO mentor Gozon

ASK YOUR CEO

DEAR Atty. Gozon,

I read your column in the INQUIRER about the restrictions on foreigners.

I was born in the Philippines but still, by citizenship, I am an Indian citizen. As far as I am concerned, it is the Philippines that is my home, because it is where I grew up and lived all of my life.

I have just graduated from a business management course from a local university here in the Philippines with a good academic standing.

I would like to ask if you could give me an insight on what work I can do in the Philippines taking into consideration the limitations placed upon the management, operation, administration and control of businesses.

Your answer will not just be helping me but all of the foreign people who have studied and are living in the Philippines.

Rejeev Sandhu

The Anti-Dummy Law prohibits the employment of a non-Filipino citizen (whether or not born in the Philippines or residing therein) in a wholly or partly nationalized business activity "whether as an officer, employee, or laborer therein.'" The only exceptions are: (a) election as a member of the board of directors, and (b) employment in a "technical" position with the specific authority of the Secretary of Justice.

The Secretary of Justice has defined the term "technical personnel" as generally including any person who has special, extraordinary or practical knowledge, especially of a mechanical or scientific occupation.

The following may provide you with the insight you requested on what business activities in the Philippines are wholly or partly nationalized.

Wholly nationalized:

1. Mass media (print and broadcast);
2. Practice of licensed professions (medicine, law, engineering, accountancy, customs broker, etc.);
3. Retail trade;
4. Cooperatives;
5. Private security agencies;
6. Small-scale mining
7. Engaging in the rice and corn industry except as authorized by the National Food Authority; and
8. Ownership, operation and management of cockpit and

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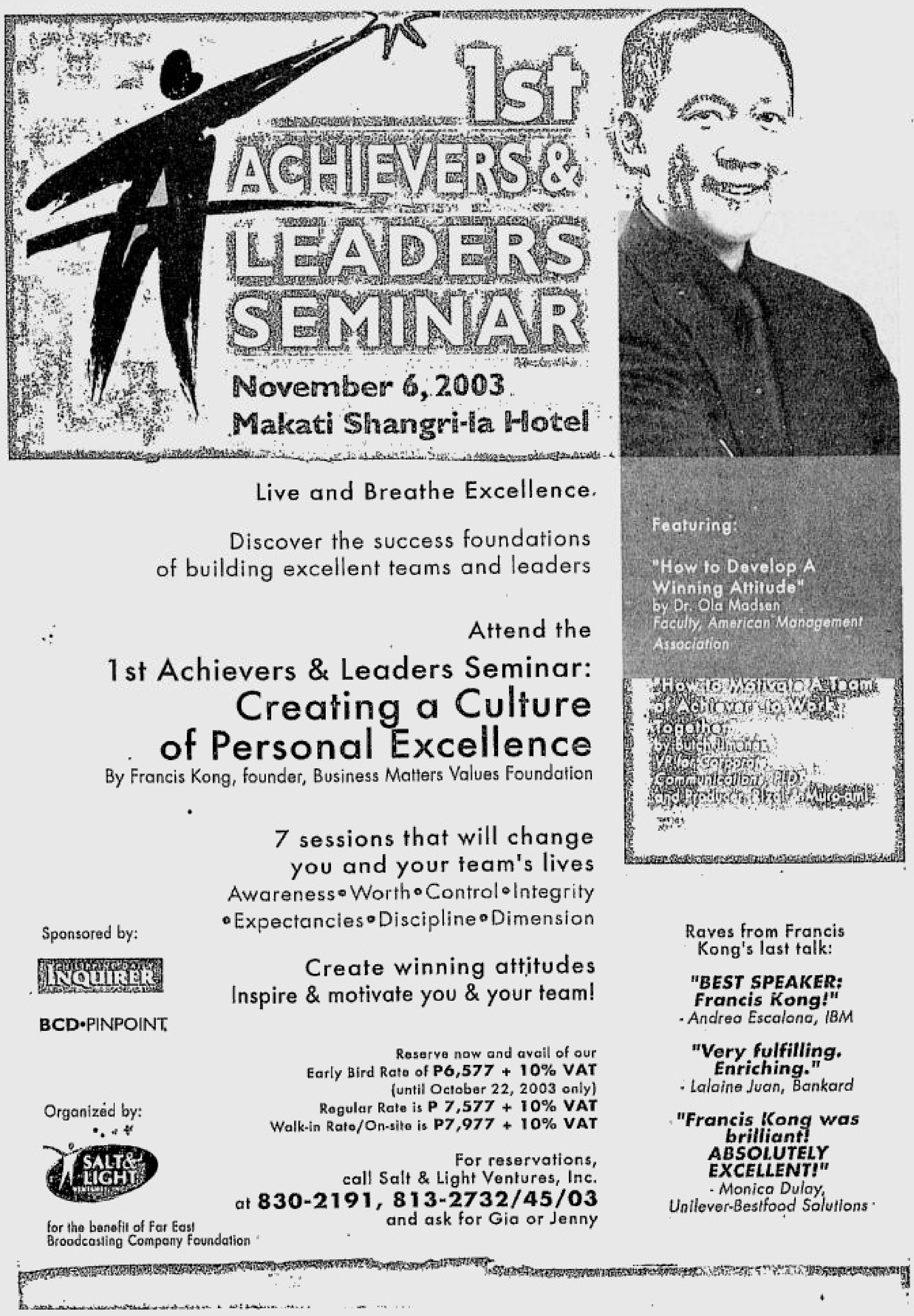

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Filipino chef instructors seek to bring native dishes to worldwide acclaim

CHEF Anne Marie Castro with her students

By Candy G. Villanueva

ALL ABOUT WORK

GONE are the days of the stereotype haughty chef. No flying pots and pans and no barking out instructions on how to properly sauté the onions.

Nowadays, most revered chefs are approachable and pleasantly impart their knowledge. Their roles have extended from the four tiled walls of the kitchen to the friendly atmosphere of the school campus.

One of these campuses is the De La Salle University - College of Saint Benilde's (DLSU-CSB) School of Hotel, Restaurant, and Institution Management (SHRIM). It is home to several seasoned academicians and experienced culinary practitioners as faculty members.

Culinary background

Part of this impressive roster of talents is chef Anne Marie Castro. Chef Anne is a culinary professor/ chef instructor and teaches courses on principles of food production, menu planning and catering systems.

The school's slogan says, "Only the best can mentor," and chef Anne is regarded as one of the best in culinary circles. After an Organizational Communication degree from DLSU, the chef formalized her culinary studies at the Culinary Institute of America in New York. Chef Anne explains, "If you really want to pursue a career in cooking, you should go to a specialized school."

Culinary courses are limited in the Philippines. Aspirants who wish to be chefs or culinary professors could take an Associate Degree in Culinary Arts or Professional Development in Culinary. Aside from DLSU-CSB, the Center for Asian Culinary Studies in San Juan and the Center for Culinary Arts in Katipunan are some of the professional chef schools that offer culinary degrees.

"Being called a chef is a title. It is a sign of respect. In Europe, there is a license exam taken to earn the title but in the Philippines, it is something that you have to earn like respect."

Aside from the mandatory Bachelor's Degree, chef instructors are required to have at least five years experience in teaching or some units in teaching.

Schools also encourage chef instructors to earn a Masters Degree in Cooking or Gastronomy or other courses related to the hospitality industry like hotel management and tourism.

Art of cooking

Chef instructors teach the details of the art of cooking. The curriculum is wide and covers various topics on food preparation and the culinary arts.

"When I teach, it's just like playing. I don't exert so much effort. It comes naturally," chef Anne shares. "I think a teacher should also be a friend to the students. There should always be authority but you should also learn to empathize with their problems and thus know how to be in their shoes."

Chef instructors shift from

FILIPINO/ B9

How to become 'successfully woman'

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

MANY talented, capable working moms find themselves ignored at the workplace because they don't know how to promote themselves. Where others tend to under-sell themselves, some over-promote and find themselves trapped in a myth about their own power. I believe that even if success is a personal battle, it does help if people—including ourselves—can acknowledge what we have done. We must claim our prize. And we do this not just out of pride, or a need for attention, but also because of honesty: the ability to show others what is already inside.

Improve yourself

Grace Mirabella, former editor of Vogue and founding editor of Mirabella, said: "I believe that no matter what you're doing—whether it's promoting Ronrico rum or selling suits or working to bring readers to Vogue or Mirabella magazines—you're always selling something. And ultimately, what you're selling is yourself." So if you really want to get anywhere in your career, you have to seriously think about all the things that a good sales man thinks about—the quality of the product, the packaging, the way the product benefits are communicated, and the unique benefits that can turn it into leader—and apply these to yourself.

What are you doing to continually improve your skills? How much attention do you pay to your image, your manner of dress and bearing? How well do you communicate your ideas and solutions? How are you harnessing and showing your leadership potential?

Successfully Woman

Metro Working Mom, in cooperation with Optimus Managers and Advisors, Inc., is launching a seminar series for working moms to address precisely this concern. Entitled "Successfully Woman: A Guide to Succeed in Work and Life," the series is designed for working moms who may not have that much time to attend MBA classes but would like to have the skills necessary to advance in their career. Tthe lectures are held after office hours (at 6 pm to 9 pm) for three consecutive days at the SGV Hall of the ACCM Bldg (beside the Asian Institute of Management). The series is offered at the incredibly affordable price of P100 to P300 per person per session.

Learning sessions

The first lecture (November 11) is on "Communicating with Power" by Ms Lirio O. Mapa, vice president of the Center for Leadership and Change. She will talk about the different reasons why we may not be communicating effectively in the workplace. Many women don't speak up enough in corporations and when they do, they are sometimes not heard they way they want to be. This lecture will propose strategies in powerful communication and show the competencies of listening, presentation and becoming knowledgeable as a means of mastering the power of communication.

For the second lecture (November 12), Maricor Salas Ding, president of MSD Personnel Development Consultants, will talk about "Developing a Winning Image." While it is important to develop competencies that will ensure one's peak performance in the company, a woman's professional image is important in getting her noticed and listened to. This learning session will tackle the importance of image management, including how to develop the visual poise and posture to mark leaders.

Josefina O. Santamaria, president of Career Systems, Inc., will cap the seminar series (November 13) by talking about how women can achieve their leadership destiny in a module called "Becoming a Manager-Leader." It is important for women who want to assume the mantle of leadership to act with authority and to take risks. This learning session will show the difference between managing and leading, how to establish goals, how to build trust through action, the importance of delegation, and timely decision-making.

Make time for this seminar series. You owe it to yourself to develop your skills at the workplace. You'll find that devoting just a bit of your time for this series, will help you achieve the work and family goals you so want to achieve.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is founding editor of Working Mom magazine published by ABS-CBN publishing. You may reach her at an_alcantara@abs.pinoycentral.com.*)*

Steps in collaborative selling process

By Dr. Tony Alessandra

(This is the second part of the article "Collaborative selling increases competitive advantage" which was published last Wednesday.)

COLLABORATIVE selling means handling every aspect of the sales process with a high degree of professionalism. There are six basic steps that describe how the collaborative sales process unfolds:

Target

The first step is a marketing necessity: understand exactly what the product/service is and identify the specific markets that can best use it. This is done on a company level in their marketing plan and should be done by individual salespeople as well. It takes some time, but careful planning focuses effort and provides a greater return on time and money invested. Collaborative salespeople know they must concentrate on prospects who have a high probability of buying.

Contact

The first step after targeting a market is to contact them in a cost-effective and professional way. Naturally, this would be some combination of letter, phone and personal contact. The right combination of contacting strategies ensures that collaborative salespeople create high perceived value before they call on their prospects.

When contact is made, collaborative salespeople set the stage for a cooperative, working relationship. They convey their desire to explore needs and opportunities. They build credibility and trust. They express their sincere desire to be of service, and they make their competitive advantages known without jumping into a presentation.

Explore

In this stage of the collaborative. sales process, salespeople convey the message: "Let's explore your business situation to see if there are needs to fulfill or opportunities on which to capitalize." During the "explore" stage, collaborative salespeople conduct research, meet with their prospects frequently, and do whatever it takes to become an expert on their prospect's business. The give-and-take relationship that develops sets the stage for in-depth exploration of options that may culminate in a sale.

Collaborative salespeople make it clear that they want to help, not just make a sale. If, after information gathering, collaborative salespeople find that their products are not appropriate for their prospects, which is unlikely due to their careful target marketing, they will forego the sale, but have made a friend and business contact. The "explore" stage of selling, and in fact the entire collaborative selling philosophy, is built around the following phrase—"Prescription before diagnosis is malpractice."

(To be continued)

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

'What are the limitations ...

From page B8

cockfighting activities (Rules and Regulations implementing PD No. 1802).

Partly nationalized:

1. Private recruitment whether for local or overseas employment;
2. Advertising;
3. Exploration, development and utilization of natural resources (but full foreign participation is allowed through financial or technical assistance agreement with the President under Art. XX, Sec. 2 of the Constitution);
4. Operation and management of public utilities;
5. Ownership/ establishment of educational institutions;
6. Banks and financing companies;
7. Manufacture, repair, storage and/or distribution of firearms, ammunition, lethal weapons, military ordnance, explosives, pyrotechnics, and parts, peripherals and ingredients used in the manufacture thereof (R.A.No. 7042);
8. Manufacture and distributions of dangerous drugs;
9. Sauna and steam bathhouses, massage clinics, and other like activities (R.A. No. 7042);
10. Domestic market enterprises with paid-in equity capital of less than $500,000 unless they involve advance technology (R.A. No. 7042);
11. Export enterprises which utilize raw material from depleting natural resources and with paid-in equity capital of less than $500,000.00 (Art. XII, Sec. 2 of the Constitution; R.A. No. 7042);
12. Import and wholesale activities not integrated with production or manufacture of goods (R.A. No. 7042); and
13. Service requiring license or specific authorization, and subject to continuing regulation by the government agencies, e.g. travel agencies, tourist lodging services, convention and conference organizers, life and non-life insurance agencies and professional resinsurance service and insurance brokerage (R.A. No. 7042).

While the above enumeration is already numerous, it is not meant to be exhaustive. Accordingly, if and when you decide to engage in a business activity or file an application for work, it may still be advisable for you to check the updated Foreign Investments Negative List which is available at the Board of Investments (BOI) or Department of Trade. There are cases where temporary employment of foreign nationals may be allowed by the BOI in partly nationalized activities as incentives to pioneer or non-pioneer registered enterprises.

The Philippines is attracting foreign investments into the country as a matter of policy. But because there are many Filipinos who are unemployed or underemployed, it has to also protect their interest. Nevertheless, the basic purpose of the Anti-Dummy Law is to prevent the circumvention of the nationalization laws by unscrupulous aliens and Filipinos (King v. Hernaez, 4 SCRA 792).

(Send your requests for career advice to rreyes@inquirer. com.ph. *Your letters will be sent to the appropriate CEO columnists who will answer your letters through this column.)*

Filipino chef instructors ...

From page B8

the white-board, sharing basic cooking principles, and then, to the kitchen where they demonstrate and give students hands-on experience.

After the basics, professors take the students to the next level, the catering systems. Chef instructors teach students how to make their own recipes in the next level. The teachers allow the apprentices to showcase their culinary talents and creations by obliging them to prepare a meal for a group of teachers and school officials to sample their edible masterpieces.

As a chef and teacher, Castro considers food as a medium. "It's a tool to teach people about certain philosophies of life." She relates how former students, now professionals, would come up to her and tell her how important her lessons were to their profession and life.

Cooking inspirations

Chef Anne achieves this by exposing her students to different forms of art. Just recently, she brought her students to a poetry reading as homage to Spanish poet Pablo Neruda with guitarist Jorge Orozco. "Food is poetry," explains the chef, "what you do with food is poetry in itself." After the experience, she asked her students to prepare a menu inspired by the poetry reading and the guitar performance they just saw.

Chef instructors are not confined to the four walls of the kitchen or the classroom. Sometimes in school for 12 to 14 hours a day, these instructors also handle lesson plan formulation, exam preparations and checking of papers. In addition, they are also tasked with administrative functions.

Responsibilities of chef instructors also go beyond the school campus. They are also encouraged to get involved in professional tracking to improve their craft as teachers or instructors of the culinary arts. Professional tracking includes consultancies and seminar appearances.

Being seasoned chefs and industry practitioners, chef instructors hope that through their guidance and tutelage, culinary graduates will be able to pursue an innovative career or establish a respectable business in the food service industry.

Rediscovering Filipino recipes

Chef Anne, like most culinary professors, is hoping that someday, Filipino dishes would receive worldwide recognition. "We see Chinese, Italian, Thai restaurants almost anywhere in the world but where are the Filipino restaurants?"

Using her job as an opportunity to mold the youth, she urges her students and colleagues to go back to basics. "Most Filipino dishes are characteristically greasy. What we need to do is look back on our roots and rediscover their secrets. Our grandmothers used to make fine dishes out of the freshest and excellent ingredients." She also adds, "Our ancestors wouldn't settle for second best." The chef believes that Filipino dishes are rich in flavors and textures and therefore, deserves the attention of the international palate.

To all
GSIS MEMBERS:

1. We wish to announce that we have resumed the processing of salary and policy loan applications.

   The policy to suspend processing loans while initiating reforms in the System was a policy solely of the GSIS. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has disagreed with said suspension and has stated that at no time should the GSIS members be inconvenienced even while reforms are being instituted.

   We are taking the advice and directive of the President. While the reforms continue, loans will now be processed full blast.

   I have now ordered all GSIS operating units to fast track the processing and releasing of all claims and loans to members.

2. We also wish to clarify that I have never stated that the GSIS cannot disburse funds to members due to non-remittance of contributions by certain government agencies.

   In the course of updating records of the GSIS, we have stumbled across several instances of unreconciled remittances, which occurred before the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and my administration. This is an inherited problem. We are now in the process of reconciling the accounts with the subject government agencies.

3. Despite the above problems, we wish to state for the record that the GSIS is in sound financial condition, and is at its most profitable. All legitimate loans and claims can and will be paid.

   We apologize for the temporary inconvenience that the reforms have caused. The reforms were instituted to lengthen and strengthen the life of the GSIS fund for the benefit of its members and their families.

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4 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
5 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
6 UTANG NG AMA
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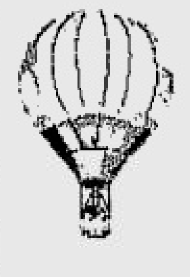

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2 THE RUNDOWN	2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	2 THE RUNDOWN 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 THE RUNDOWN 2:00 4:15 6:30 8:45 11:00	2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HEAD OF THE STATE 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30 10:30	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FREAKY FRIDAY 1:05, 3:20, 5:15, 7:10, 9:05, 11:00	3 FREAKY FRIDAY
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FOR SCREENING TIME, PLS. CALL THE MOVIE ACCESS NO.: 635-5555

Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	UTANG NG AMA
Ali 2	BUGBOG SARADO
Ali 3	UNDERWORLD
Ali 4	RUNDOWN
Ali 5	BELPHEGOR
Ali 6	THE SUSPECT
Ali 7	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

ARANETA COLISEUM

OCT 22	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
OCT 25	DZRJ'S 40TH GRAND REUNION
OCT 26	PBA: STA. LUCIA VS. PUREFOODS
OCT 27	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
OCT 29	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY

Opens Dec. 23 DISNEY ON ICE "Beauty & The Beast"

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BUGBOG SARADO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	UTANG NG AMA
B	RUNDOWN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUGBOG SARADO
CINEMA-2	FREAKY FRIDAY
CINEMA-3	MATCHSTICK MEN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SUSPECT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
CINEMA-6	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-7	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-8	KIKAY (R)
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BELPHEGOR
CINEMA-12	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-14	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
CINEMA-15	UTANG NA AMA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-1	UTANG NG AMA
CINEMA-2	BUGBOG SARADO
CINEMA-4	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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DAKOTA FANNING

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Uptown Girls

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND • EX

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CINEMA 1	**THE RUNDOWN** 11:10, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00 **PG13**
CINEMA 2	**MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER** 11:05, 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 10:00 **R13**

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MUSIC MUSEUM

OCT 23	MARISSA SANCHEZ AT THE MUSIC MUSEUM	9:00PM
OCT 24	SARAH GERONIMO - POPSTAR "A DREAMS COME TRUE	9:00PM

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MOVIE GUIDE
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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	UNDERWORLD
2 (SDDS)	THE RUNDOWN
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE
4 GOLD	FREAKY FRIDAY
5 GOLD	THE BOSS DOUGHTER
6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE RUNDOWN
7 GOLD	AMERICAN PCYCHO
8	UTANG NG AMA
9	THE SUSPECT
10	BELPHEGOR

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	UTANG NG AMA
2	THE RUNDOWN
3	KIKAY

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	UTANG NG AMA
2	BELPHEGOR
3	BOSS DAUGHTER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	THE RUNDOWN
5	BUGBOG SARADO

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2	KIKAY
3	UTANG NG AMA
4	THE RUNDOWN
5	BOSS DAUGHTER
6	BELPHEGOR

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1	THE RUNDOWN
2	UTANG NG AMA

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2603

THE RUNDOWN

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2	FREDDY VS. JASON

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21

1	THE RUNDOWN
2	UTANG NG AMA
3	BUGBOG SARADO
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	UTANG NG AMA
6	BUGBOG SARADO
7 (DTS)	BELPHEGOR
8 (SDDS)	THE RUNDOWN
9 (DOLBY)	BOSS DOUGHTER

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364-3781

1	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2	BUGBOG SARADO
3	UTANG NG AMA
4 (SDDS)	THE RUNDOWN
5	BELPHEGOR
6 (DOLBY)	BOSS DOUGHTER
7 (DTS)	THE RUNDOWN
8	KIKAY
9	KISKISAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2 (SDDS)	BOSS DOUGHTER
3 (DTS)	UTANG NG AMA
4 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
5	KIKAY

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	UTANG NG AMA
2	BOSS DOUGHTER
3 (DTS)	BELPHEGOR
4	KIKAY
5 (SDDS)	THE RUNDOWN

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	RESERVE

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Jennet	RESERVE

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tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	THE RUNDOWN
2	UTANG NG AMA
3	BUGBOG SARADO
4	BOSS DOUGHTER

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
2	BELPHEGOR
3	KIKAY
4	UTANG NG AMA
5	BUGBOG SARADO

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	KIKAY
2	UTANG NG AMA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	UTANG NG AMA
2	BUGBOG SARADO
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	UNDERWORLD
4 (SDDS)	RUNDOWN
5 (DTS)	BELPHEGOR
6	THE SUSPECT
7	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	UTANG NG AMA
2	BUGBOG SARADO
3 (DTS)	THE RUNDOWN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	UTANG NG AMA
2 (DTS)	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
4	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	UTANG NG AMA
2 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
3 (DTS)	INNER SENSES
4	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	BASIC
2	MEDALLION
3 (DOLBY)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUSE
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	INNER SENSES
2	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
3 (DOLBY)	FREAKY FRIDAY
4	MEDALLION

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	MEDALLION
2	AMERICAN PIE THE WDDING
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	BUGBOG SARADO
2	KIKAY
3 (DTS)	UTANG NG AMA
4	THE RUNDOWN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
2	UTANG NG AMA
3 (DTS)	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
4	BUGBOG SARADO
5	TREK

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	UTANG NG AMA
2	BUGBOG SARADO
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	THE RUNDOWN
2	BOSS DOUGHTER
3	UTANG NG AMA

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	AMERICAN PIE THE WODING
2	UTANG NG AMA
3 (DTS)	BUGBOG SARADO
4	THE SUSPECT

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHAY
2	UTANG NG AMA
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2	MATCHSTICK MEN
3	THE RUNDOWN
4	UTANG NG AMA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	THE RUNDOWN
2	THE SUSPECT
3	MATCHSTICK MEN
4	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
2	THE SUSPECT
3 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
4	MATCHSTICK MEN

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
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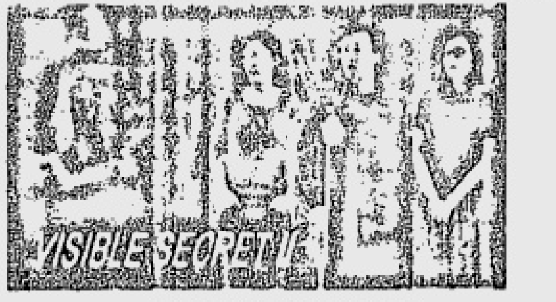
Schedule subject to change without prior notice



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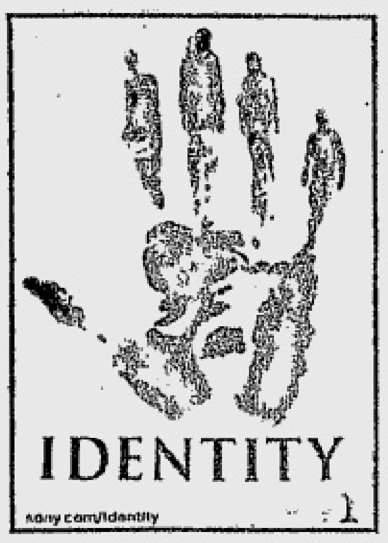
MTRCB RATING ▶ R —18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.



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A SMART, SCARY THRILLER

What if every choice we make was already decided for us? What if there really were no coincidences in life and our destinies were already predetermined?

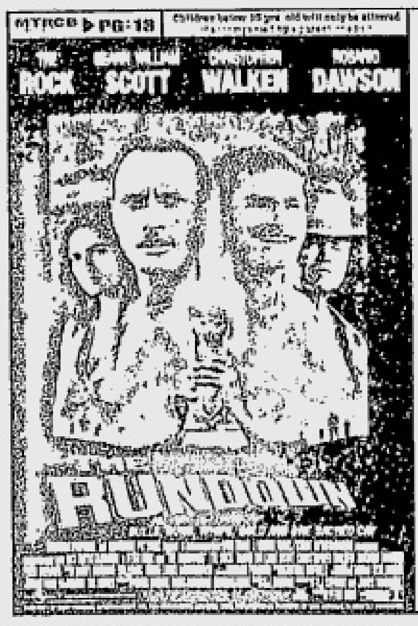
From the producer of the **SCREAM** movies, comes **IDENTITY**, a smart, mind-bending thriller with a disturbing twist.

Ten strangers with secrets are brought together in a motel on a rainstorm. A limo driver (John Cusack), an '80s TV star (Rebecca DeMorney), a cop (Ray Liotta) who is transporting a killer (Jake Busey), a call girl (Amanda Peet), a pair of newlyweds and a family in crisis, all take shelter at a desolate motel run by a nervous night manager.

Relief in finding shelter is quickly replaced with spine-chilling fear as the 10 travelers die, one by one. They soon realize that, if they are to survive, they'll have to uncover the secret that has brought them all together.

SCREAM! The TERROR begins OCT29

MTRCB ▶ PG-13



New Int'l Action Superstar is born!

Wrestling champ The Rock, next Schwarzenegger in 'RUNDOWN'?

Seven-time world wrestling champion The Rock (SCORPION KING, THE MUMMY RETURNS) is star of THE RUNDOWN, a spectacular crowd-pleasing, no-holds-barred jungle-action adventure, and the No. 1 movie in America.

The testosterone-packed movie launches The Rock as an International Action Superstar a la Arnold Schwarzenegger. Schwarzenegger shows his support for The Rock as the politics-bound action hero appears briefly in the slam-bang action comedy.

The Rock (or Dwayne Johnson) is Beck, a bounty hunter assigned to retrieve a wise-cracking double dealer played by Seann William Scott (Stifler in the American Pie movies) who is on a treasure hunt deep in the Brazilian jungle.

The Rundown features The Rock in a series of jaw-dropping fight scenes, including an eye-popping rumble in the jungle with our very own Ernie Reyes Jr. Fil-Am martial arts champion.

Simultaneously in Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cag. de Oro

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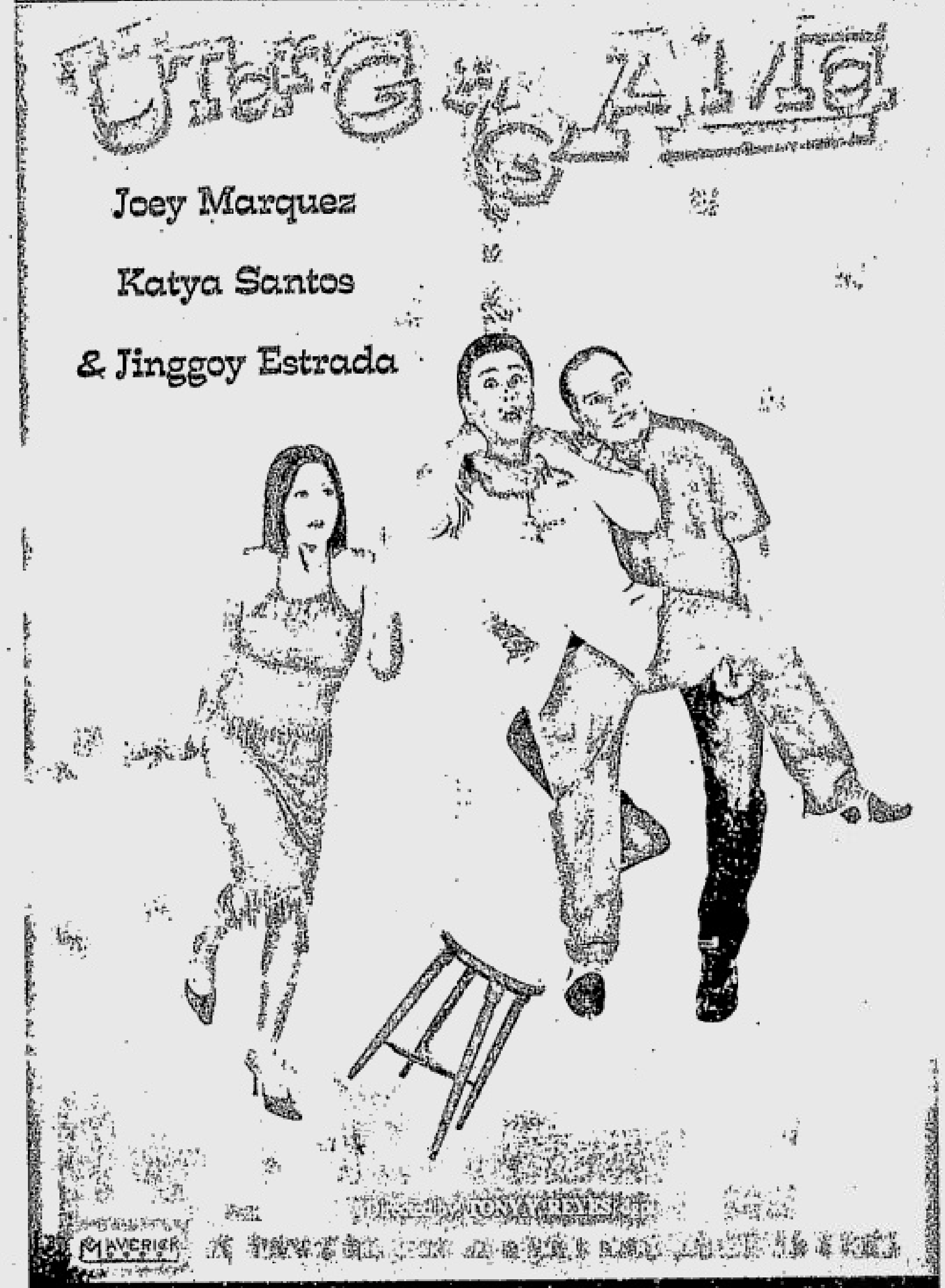
Celebrity Premieres today at SM Megamall Cinema 9 (7:30 p.m.)

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13



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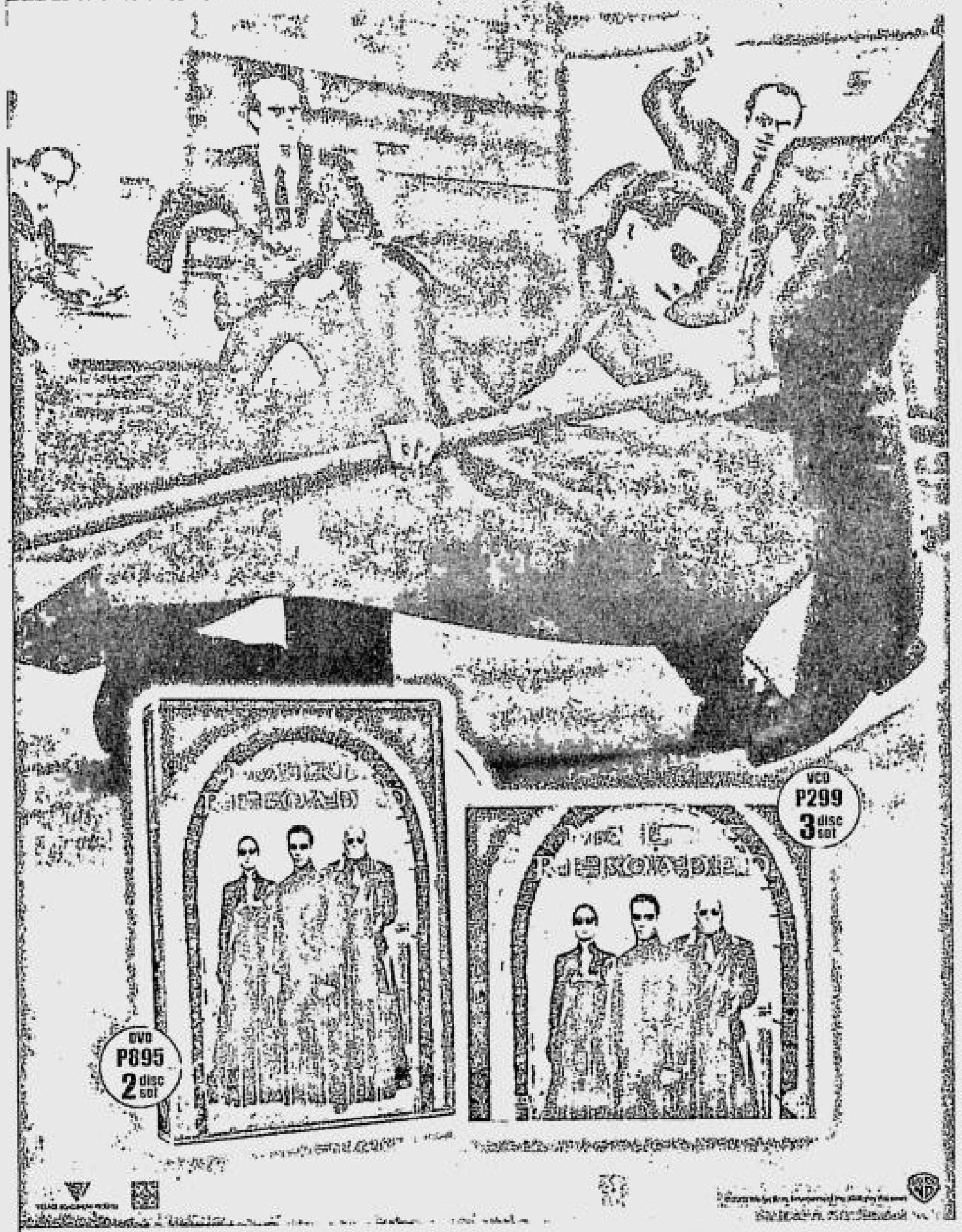

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Washington Post

"Chris Rock wins by a landslide of laughs."
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"Sharpest political humor... It gets my vote."
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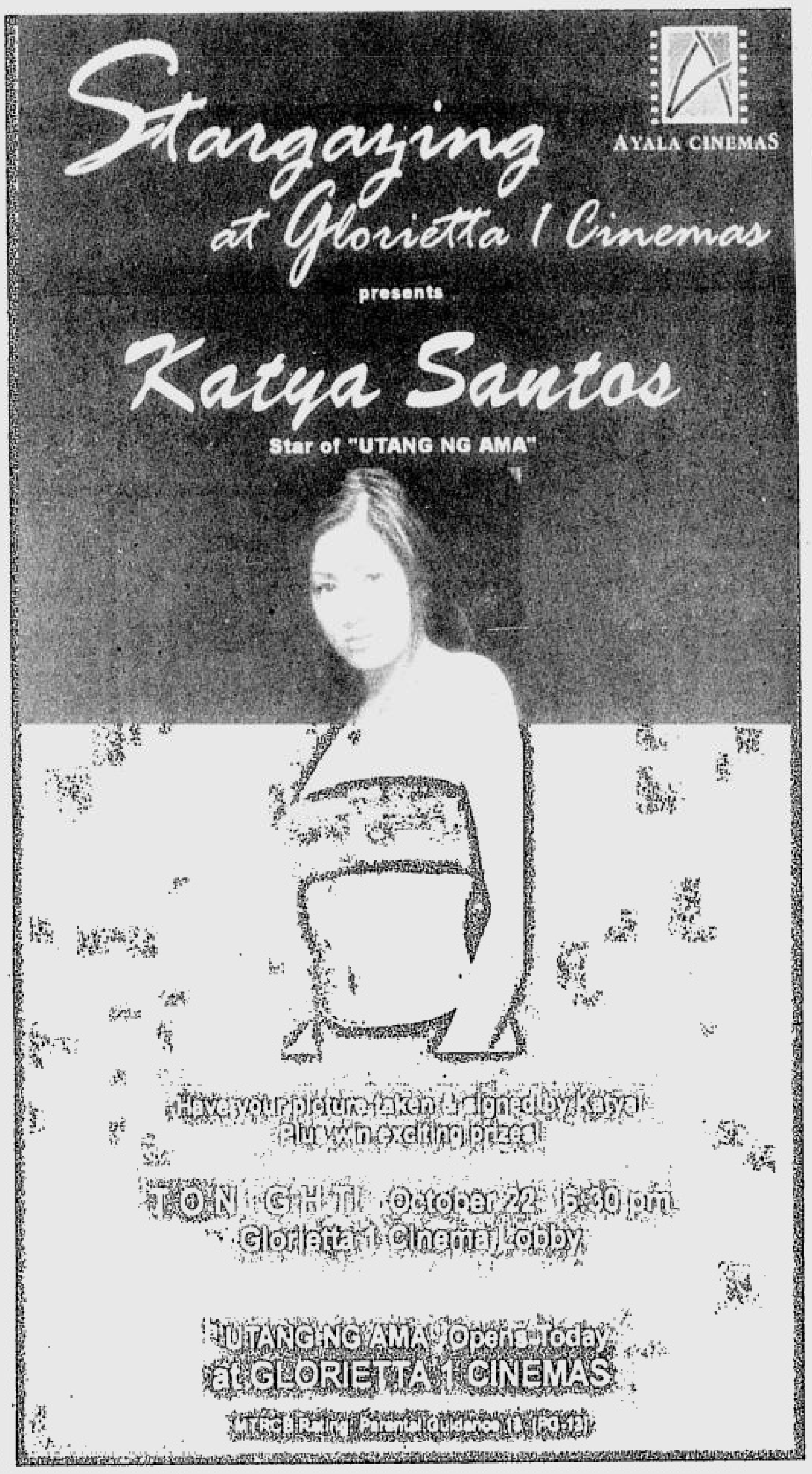

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Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby

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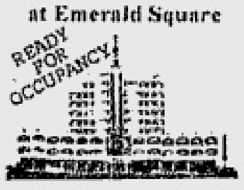

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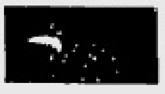

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE LLILIA SANTOS VILLA HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY THE HEIRS AS PER DOC. # 159, PAGE # 32, BOOK # 111, SERIES OF 2003 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC JOYCE C. G. BONDOC OF MUNTINLUPA CITY (PDI-OCT. 22, 29, NOV. 11, 2003)

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NOTICE OF DECREASE IN AUTHORIZED CAPITAL STOCK OF KH CEBU CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that the amended articles of incorporation of KH Cebu Corporation decreasing its authorized capital stock through the reduction in the number of shares issued and outstanding from Sixty Five Million Pesos (P65,000,000) divided into Six Hundred Fifty Thousand (650,000) shares with a par value of P100.00 per share to Thirty Five Million Four Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand (P35,489,000) divided into Three Hundred Fifty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety (354,890) shares with a par value of P100.00 per share and the financial statements showing that no creditors will be affected by such decrease in capital stock have been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. All persons having claims against the corporation are requested to present the same at its principal office at Mactan Economic Zone, Lapu-Lapu City for immediate settlement.

This announcement will serve as notice to all parties concerned of the application for decrease in authorized capital stock of the said corporation.

Mactan Economic Zone, Lapu-lapu City, Cebu, Philippines, Oct. 08, 2003.

(Sgd.) WENDY C. GOIPENG
Corporate Secretary

(PDI – October 22, 2003)

Notice is hereby given to the public that Regular Membership Certificate No. 1289 of the Canlubang Golf & Country Club, Inc. issued in the name of UNION AJINOMOTO, INC. has been reported lost.

If within one year from the date of the last publication of this notice no contest is presented, said certificate shall be cancelled and in lieu thereof, a new membership Certificate will be issued.

(PDI – Oct. 15, 22 & 29, 2003)

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SUMMONS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF RALEIGH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE : ESTATE OF RAQUEL S. ISRAEL, BY OSCAR LOPEZ,
Petitioner, Administrator of the Estate,

Vs.

MARY JOE ISRAEL, and CITY NATIONAL BANK
OF WEST VIRGINIA,
Respondents.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 03-C-435-K

To the above named Respondent: MARY JOE ISRAEL

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Pat C. Fragile, plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 412 S. Kanawha Street, Beckley, WV 25801, an answer, including any related counter claim or defense you may have, to the Complaint filed against you in the above styled civil action, a true copy of which is herewith delivered to you. You are required to serve your answer within 20 days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, thereafter judgment, upon proper hearing and trial may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint and you will be thereafter barred from asserting in another action any claim, cross petition or defense you may have, which must be asserted in the above styled civil action.

Dated: July 31, 2003

CLERK OF COURT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF RALEIGH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE : ESTATE OF RAQUEL S. ISRAEL, BY OSCAR LOPEZ,
Petitioner, Administrator of the Estate,

Vs.

MARY JOE ISRAEL, and CITY NATIONAL BANK
OF WEST VIRGINIA,
Respondents.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 03-C-436-K.

AMENDED COMBINED ACTION TO QUIET TITLE AND DETERMINE IF ALLEGED ADOPTED DAUGHTER IS RIGHTFUL HEIR

Comes now the Petitioner by counsel, and states and avers as follows

1. That on the 16th day of November, 2002, Raquel S. Israel-Lopez died intestate, as a resident of Raleigh County, West Virginia, seized and possessed of certain real estate located in Raleigh County, West Virginia, to-wit: a one-eighth (1/8th) interest in a condominium unit consisting of 1.636 acres, located at 417 Carriage Drive Beckley, West Virginia and ownership of 104 Greenwood Drive, Beckley, West Virginia.

2. The Petitioner, Oscar Lopez, is the husband of the deceased, Raquel S. Israel and is the duly appointed, qualified, and acting Administrator of the Estate of Raquel S. Israel.

3. The Respondent, Mary Joe Israel is a resident of the Philippines Islands, and is an alleged adopted daughter of Raquel S. Israel.

4. That the Respondent, City National Bank of West Virginia claims an interest in the aforesaid properties pursuant to their Deeds of Trust dated October 11, 1996 of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office, at Roll 101, page 1459 and October 13, 1998 at Roll 144, page 2804

5. That the Administrator, Oscar Lopez, has made diligent efforts to contact Mary Joe Israel and have her to come forward and verify whether she is the adopted daughter of Raquel S. Israel and cooperate in the administration of this Estate.

6. The Administrator, Oscar Lopez has made efforts to garner records regarding the adoption of Mary Joe Israel from the Courts in the Philippines but such efforts have failed.

7. That as a result of the indebtedness on the real estate and without knowing for certain the heirs of the real estate it is inequitable for Oscar Lopez to be held chiefly responsible for the indebtedness and the Respondent, City National Bank has been uncooperative in arranging time for this Court to determine the appropriate owner or owners.

8. There is certain indebtedness on the real estate herein and there are no funds within the Estate to pay such indebtedness and it is in the best interest of the Estate, and the heirs to sell the real estate

9. The Petitioner, Oscar Lopez, has received an offer to purchase the condominium interest at a fair market value and said sale would be in the best interest of the Estate, and the heirs.

10. The Petitioner, Oscar Lopez, has placed on the market the homeplace and has had some potential offers thereon and it would likewise be in the interest of the Estate and the heirs to sell the property.

WHEREFORE, The Petitioner, Oscar Lopez, prays as follows:

1. That the Court authorize the sale of the property as the best interest of the Estate and the heirs:

2. That the Court place one-half (1/2) of the net proceeds in escrow until such time as it can be determined if Mary Joe Israel is, in fact, a rightful heir to the Estate of Raquel S. Israel:

3. That the Court quiet title to the aforementioned property;

4. That the Court determine if Mary Joe Israel is, in fact, a rightful heir to the Estate of Raquel S. Israel;

5. That the Court stay foreclosure on the properties by City National Bank until true ownership thereof is resolved,

6. That the Petitioner have such other further relief as the Court may deem meet and proper.

7. That the Petitioner be awarded his attorney fees and costs for this action.

OSCAR LOPEZ
BY COUNSEL

(Sgd.) Pat C. Fragile
412 S. Kanawha Street
Beckley, WV 25801
(304) 253-1000
WV Bar No. 1264

(PDI–Oct. 8, 15 & 22, 2003)

Notice is hereby given to the public that Membership Certificate No. 1890 for 100 units of the Manila Golf & Country Club, Inc. issued in the name of UNION AJINOMOTO, INC. has been reported lost.

If within one year from the date of the last publication of this notice no contest is presented, said certificate shall be cancelled and in lieu thereof, a new membership Certificate will be issued.

(PDI – Oct. 15, 22 & 29, 2003)

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PHOTO/MASK EQUIPMENT - BARCO CRESENT 40 (1999), MACDONALD DETTWILER Fire 950 Laser Plotters; MTH-30 Dry Film Laminator (2000); CH CCD Drilling m/c (1999); DUPONT Film Processor (1999); DAINIPPON LD 220-0T Film Processor; TECHNILITH 6000 Dry Film Developer; (3) ORC-680 GW (2001),(4) PARKER Circuit 5 Exposure m/c's; (4) ORC HMW 201B-5K-2 Double Sided Simultaneous Exposure m/c's (1999); (2) DUPONT HRL 24 Hot Roll Laminators; NATGRAPH Screen Drying Cabinet; (10) TA CHEN TC 6080 GL, (3) TA CHEN TC 5070 Auto Flat Screen Printers, (2) CH Auto Squeeze Polishers; (6) Artwork Cabs; (10) Light Tables
MULTILAYER - CEDAL 'ADARA' Single Daylight Hyd. Laminating Press (1996); CEDAL Multilayer Lay-up m/c w/ Copper Foil Rack; (3) BOLZONI 500 Kg Lift Trolleys; CEDAL 5 RBN Registration Bonder (2000); ROSENTHAL WA-5-5-HUB Sheeter (1998); AVIO MCW 650 Super Welder (1998); UHT D2-5 Micro Cell CCD Drill (1998)
LABORATORY/INSPECTION - MORIKAWA DX 2A X-Ray Drill (2001); LLOYD DOLE Trackscan 4000 Auto Optical Inspection w/ MVS 1000 Verification Station; MITUTUYO 2-Axis Coordinate Measuring m/c; (3) UTRON 8000 HV III, (2) UTRON 8000 HV, (6) UTRON 6460H, TTI, PCB Testers; NIKON MM40 Microscope w/ Camera; ALPHA 600 SMD Ionic Contamination Tester; MET ONE Laser Particle Counter; CMI XRX Coating Thickness Tester; CMI MRX Surface Measurement Tester; GERVER GP2 Specimen Puncher; GLENBROOK X-Ray; JENWAY 6405 UV Spectrophotometer; Asstd. Pin Gauge Sets; Micrometers; Microscopes; Granite Surface Plates, etc.
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Sale Date: Tuesday 11th - Wednesday 12th November 2003 – 10:30am
(Live Webcast - Wednesday 12th November only from 12 noon)
On View: Friday 7th, Saturday 8th & Monday 10th November 2003
From 9:00am To 5:00pm & Morning of Sale Days
At: SEPZ, First Cavite Industrial Estate
Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite City, Philippines
Refundable Deposit: Php50,000 (Upon Registration)
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BCDA

BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS
ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM – PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting, interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves the development and privatization of the following BCDA properties:

1 Approximately 66,820-square meter SRDP Proper located at the former Self-Reliance and Development Program (SRDP) Complex, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila;
2 Approximately four (4) hectares North Bonifacio Lots located in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila, near the Manila Japanese School, British School and International School Manila, and
3 Approximately five (5) hectares of Camp Bago Bantay located at Barangay Sto. Cristo, Bago-Bantay, Quezon City between SM City Annex and Mindanao Avenue.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) that outlines, among others, the requirements for proponents interested to participate in the privatization/development. Interested proponents can address their letters to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP COMMITTEE 2
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar corner Lucas Streets
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

The TOR for the abovementioned property shall be ready for distribution to interested proponents by 15 October 2003 at the BCDA offices at a non-refundable cost of Php10,000.00, for each TOR, payable to BCDA in cash or manager's check.

A pre-qualification conference among interested proponents is set at 2:00 pm on 29 October 2003. The objective of the pre-qualification conference is to discuss the property, the TOR and other issues that may be raised by the proponents.

Interested proponents may direct their inquiries to Aileen Zosa and/or Bambie Andal at telephone numbers 551-3006 to 11 local 124 or 110

(Sgd.) RUFO COLAYCO
President and Chief Executive Officer

(PDI – October 10, 15 & 22, 2003)

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DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
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Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
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website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.19@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of Dental Equipment, with an approved budget of Twelve Million Pesos (Php 12,000,000.00) chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds, broken down into five (5) components, as follows:

Dental Equipment	Qty.	Budget
Amalgamator	10	200,000.00
Dental Unit Chair Intraoral Camera Monitor	10	7,350,000.00
Dental Unit Chair Endodontic Module	5	2,150,000.00
Endodontic Unit and Handpiece	10	1,550,000.00
Light Curing Unit	15	750,000.00
TOTAL		**12,000,000.00**

Only bids from entities who are manufacturers of said equipment and who have or will establish an in-country manufacturing capability for this type of dental equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents for each component will only be available for issuance starting **October 15, 2003** until **October 31, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) each, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 24, 2003 at 09:00 a.m.** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility requirements and the bid envelopes is on **November 13, 2003 at 08:00 a.m.** (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at **08:15 a.m.** at the Silid Panday Pira.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRMAN, BAC

(Original Signed)
ALEXANDER D ALEO
Brigadier General AFP
Vice Chairman, BAC for GHQ Projects

(PDI - Oct. 16, 20 & 22, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nos.: 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc. 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.19@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **ACQUISITION OF MINIMUM OF FOURTEEN (14) PROPELLERS AND OVERHAULING OF TWELVE (12) ENGINES FOR OV-10A AIRCRAFT AND ITS INTEGRATED LOGISTICS SUPPORT (ILS)** of the Philippine Air Force with an approved budget of **Two Hundred Forty Five Million Seven Hundred Sixty Pesos (Php245,760,000.00)** under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from prime contractors, who may be the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of the OV-10A aircraft, its accredited repair facility, or any other equivalent accredited repair facility, suppliers, and/or distributors, shall be entertained.

Bid documents will only be available for issuance starting **October 17, 2003** during office hours between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (local time) at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Twenty Four Thousand Pesos (Php 24,000.00)** each, which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the 1st stage bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 29, 2003 at 09:00 a.m.** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than seven (7) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The deadline for submission of application for eligibility requirements and the bid envelope is on **November 12, 2003 at 08:30 a.m.** (local time) to be followed by the Opening of Bids at **09:00 a.m.** at Silid Panday Pira.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

JAIME M VIERNES
Brigadier General AFP
Vice-Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Oct 17 & 22, 2003)

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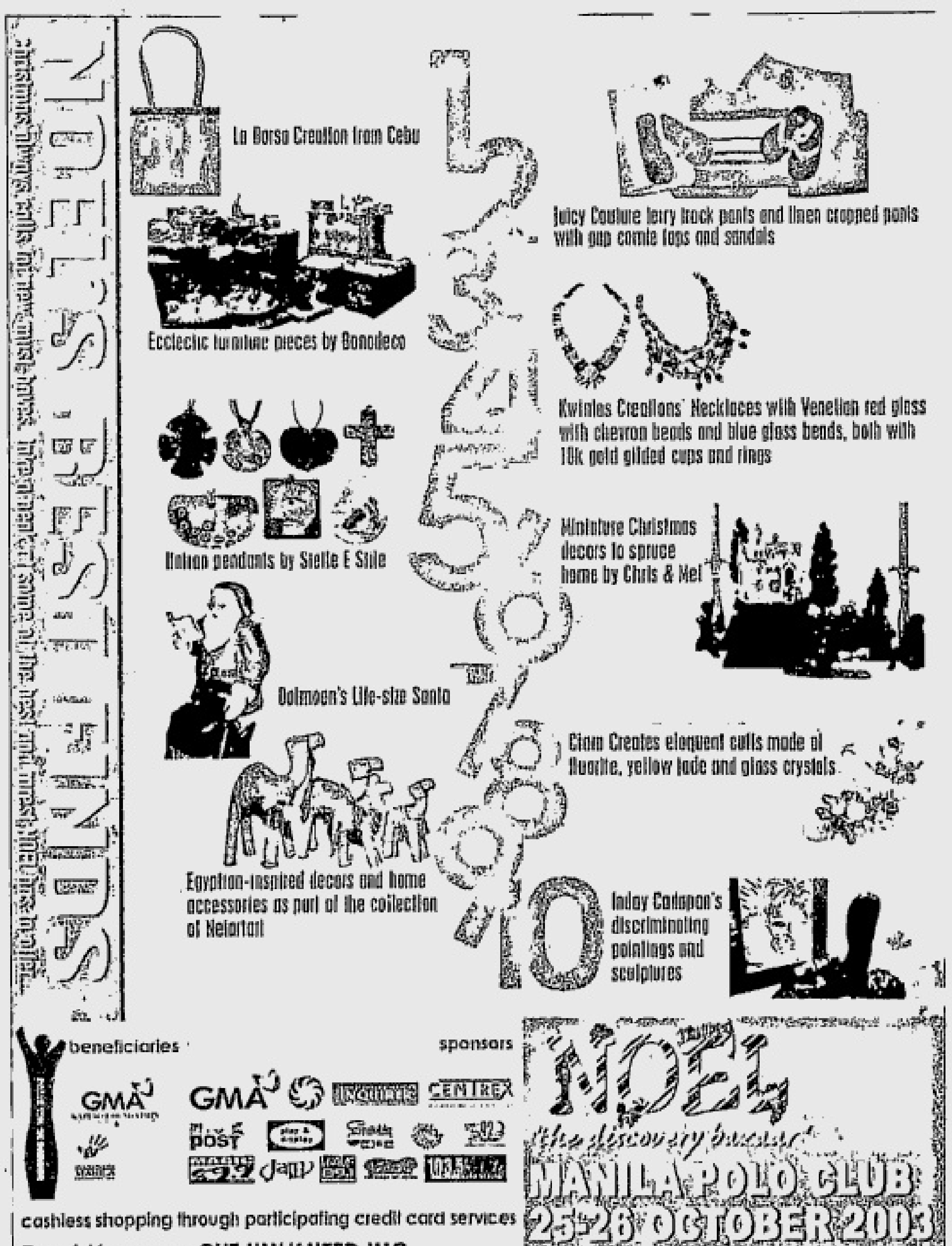
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The wife, **Linda**,
and sons **J.V.**, **Karl** and **Kip**
of the late

Robert C. Villanueva

wish to thank those who condoled with them
during their time of bereavement.

So dearly loved,
So fondly remembered,
So truly missed.

Engr. BENITO C. BERNARDO, SR.

Formerly with the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of Vienna, Austria

Died in the Grace of Our Lord on October 18, 2003 at the age of 81.

His loving wife VISING,
his children JUN & LEOVIE, LYN, JO & JUN
and his grandchildren JOANNE,
CARLO and KIMBERLY
brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus de Liguori, Magallanes Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque on October 23, 2003 after the 2 p.m. Mass at the St. Alphonsus de Liguori, Magallanes Village, Makati.

Message of Thanks

For being with us during our time of grief,
For the prayers and masses you offered,
For all donations you've given,
For the flowers you sent,
For the comforting words you gave us,

We, the bereaved family of the late

DANIEL EMMANUEL "Toting" UY DE GALA

of Candelaria, Quezon

August 20, 1986 - October 14, 2003

His loving parents : **Daniel & Dolores**
Brother & Sisters : **Donna, Fiday, Jun-Jun & Nanot**
Grand Mothers : **Anicia Reyes De Gala & Natividad Uy Gaan**
Great Grandmother : **Doña Aguida De Gala**

relatives and friends

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Psalm 55:15.

HONORIO SEGUI RAMOS

of Caloocan City & Cainta, Rizal
Division of Provincial Schools
Romblon, Cavite & Occidental Mindoro

Died peacefully on October 18, 2003 at the age of 79.

His loving wife Herminia; children Noemi & Nick, Dwight & Banny, Dante, Nieva & Joel; grandchildren Nina, Nigel, Karen, Emilio & Nya and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City. Tel. Nos. 645-1845/55.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 25, 2003 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

CONCEPCION DY-REYES Y PERDON

of Sipocot, Camarines Sur

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 17, 2003 at the age of 93.

Her loving children and their families – Bonifacio (deceased), David, Danilo, Eduardo, Renato, Hermes and Domingo, grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul. Her body lies in state at the family residence in Chrysanthemum Village, San Pedro, Laguna. Interment will be on October 23, 2003 at the Centennial Garden, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

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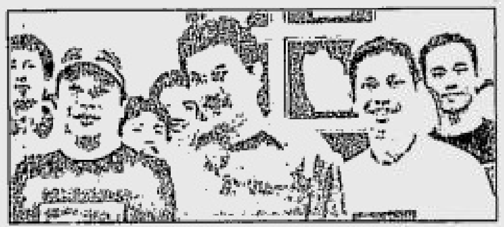


HOTEL SOGO SUPPORTS OFW FAMILY DAY

Hotel Sogo, the leading walk-on hotel in the industry, showed overwhelming support to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) and their families during the OFW Family Day held recently organized by the Overseas Family Club founded by the Honorable Ambassador Roy V. Seneres (middle). Hotel Sogo staff and officers joined in the whole day celebration which kicked off with a motorcade. Hotel Sogo discount cards were also given away to thousands of OFWs and their relatives during the event. "We make sure that we join in worthwhile endeavours, such as the OFW Family Day, which benefits many of our fellow Filipinos," said Edmundo G. Las, Hotel Sogo's CEO.

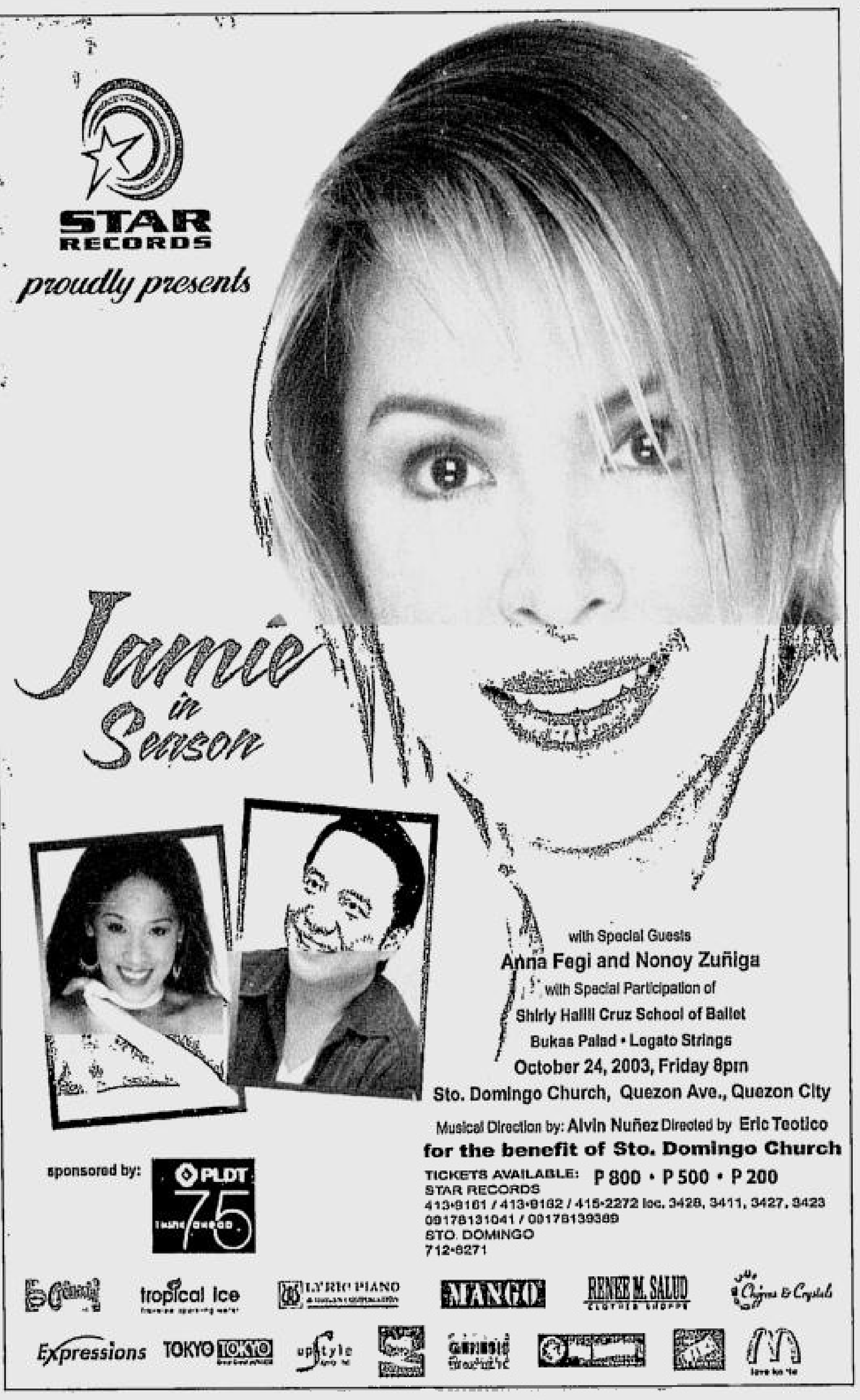
Classical pianist meets electric guitarist on October 25 at the Big Dome

RJ'S SURPRISE for his radio station's October 25 Big Bash at the Araneta Dome is out of the bag. Raul Sunico, world-renowned classical pianist, will rock the classics with RJ, in a special instrumental number.

Sponsored by Globe Handyphone, twenty-nine of the greatest and the latest Filipino singers and bands will get together connecting 4 decades of music.

Included in the line-up are Jose Mari Chan, Jaya, Hotdog, Raul Sunico, Janet Basco, Barbie's Cradle, Pepe Smith, Boyfriends, Pido with Take 1, Elizabeth Ramsey, Pilita Corales, Sampaguita & Cowboy, Mitch Valdez, Jacqui Magno, Pat Castillo, Leah Navarro, Asin, Rage, Andrew E., Louie Heredia, Aegis, Father & Sons, Edgar Opida & Boy Sanchez, Toto Ealdama & the Moonstrucks, Ernie Delgado of the Electromaniacs, 17:28, Vienna, and of course the Main Man RJ Jacinto. "DZRJ's 40th: The Grand Reunion" concert will be held on Saturday, October 25, 8 pm, at the Araneta Coliseum. Tickets are available at all Ticketnet Outlets (Tel. No. 911-5555).

RAUL SUNICO and RJ JACINTO



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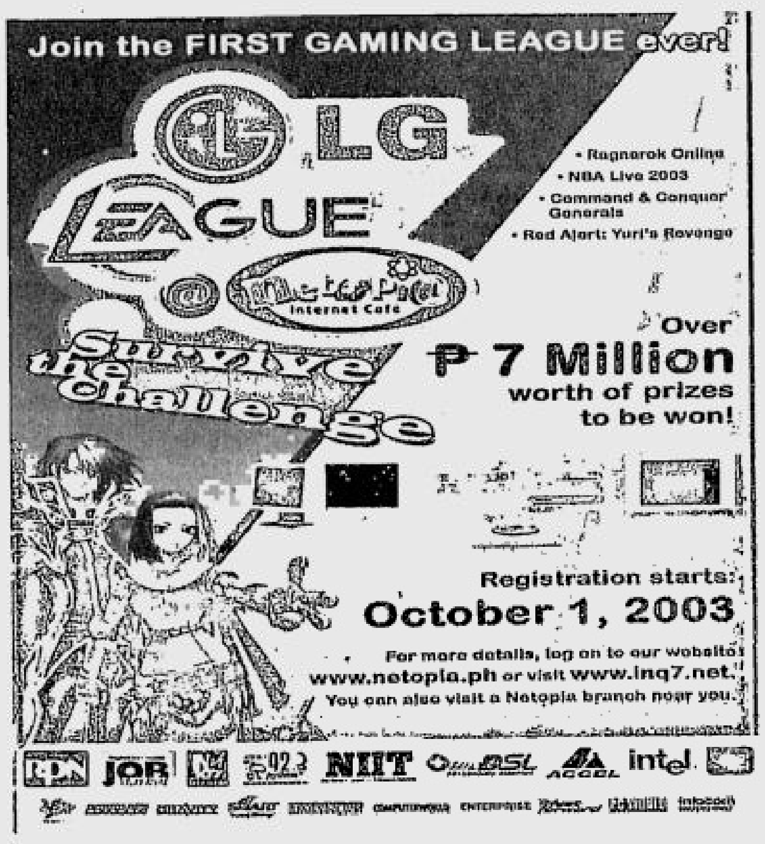
(PDI-Oct. 22, 29 & Nov. 5, 2003)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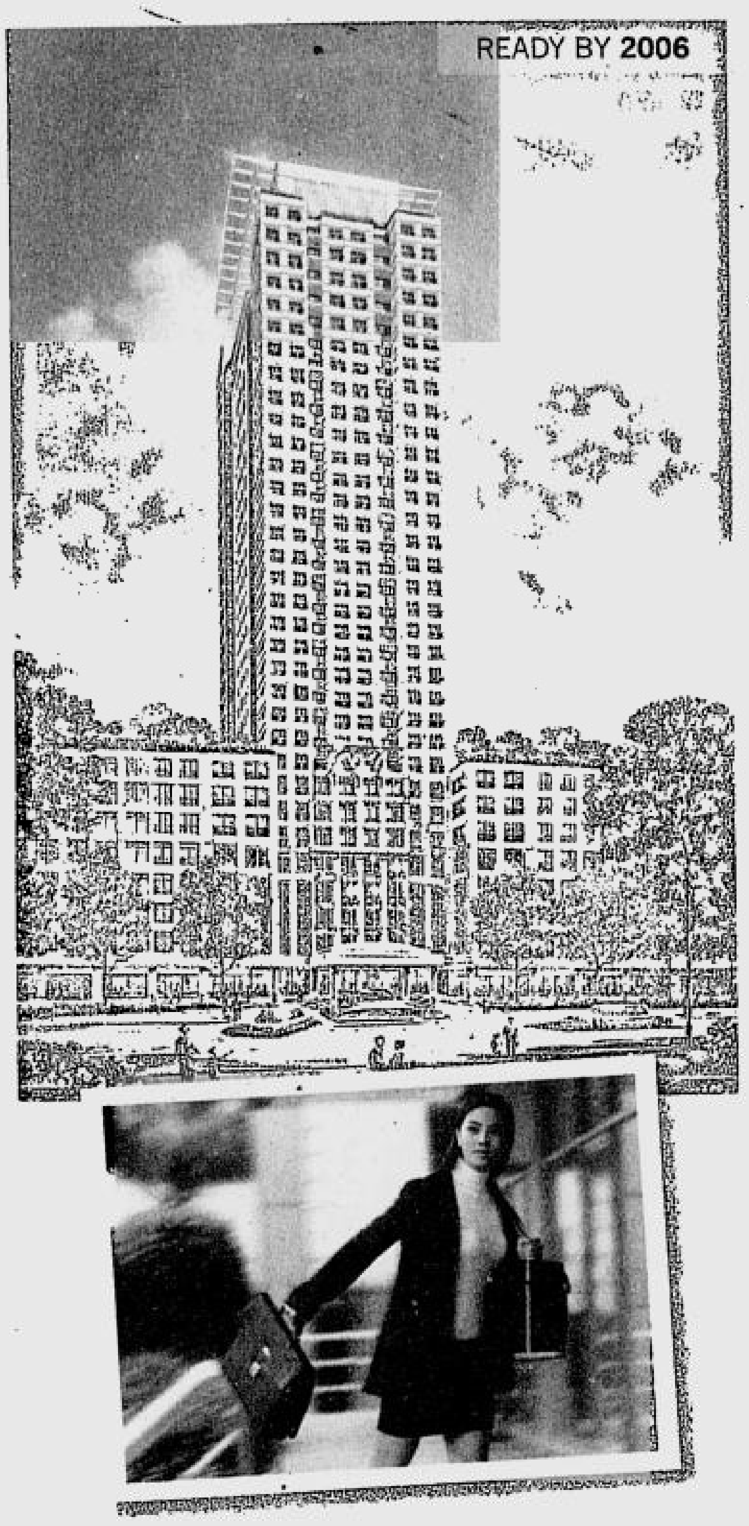

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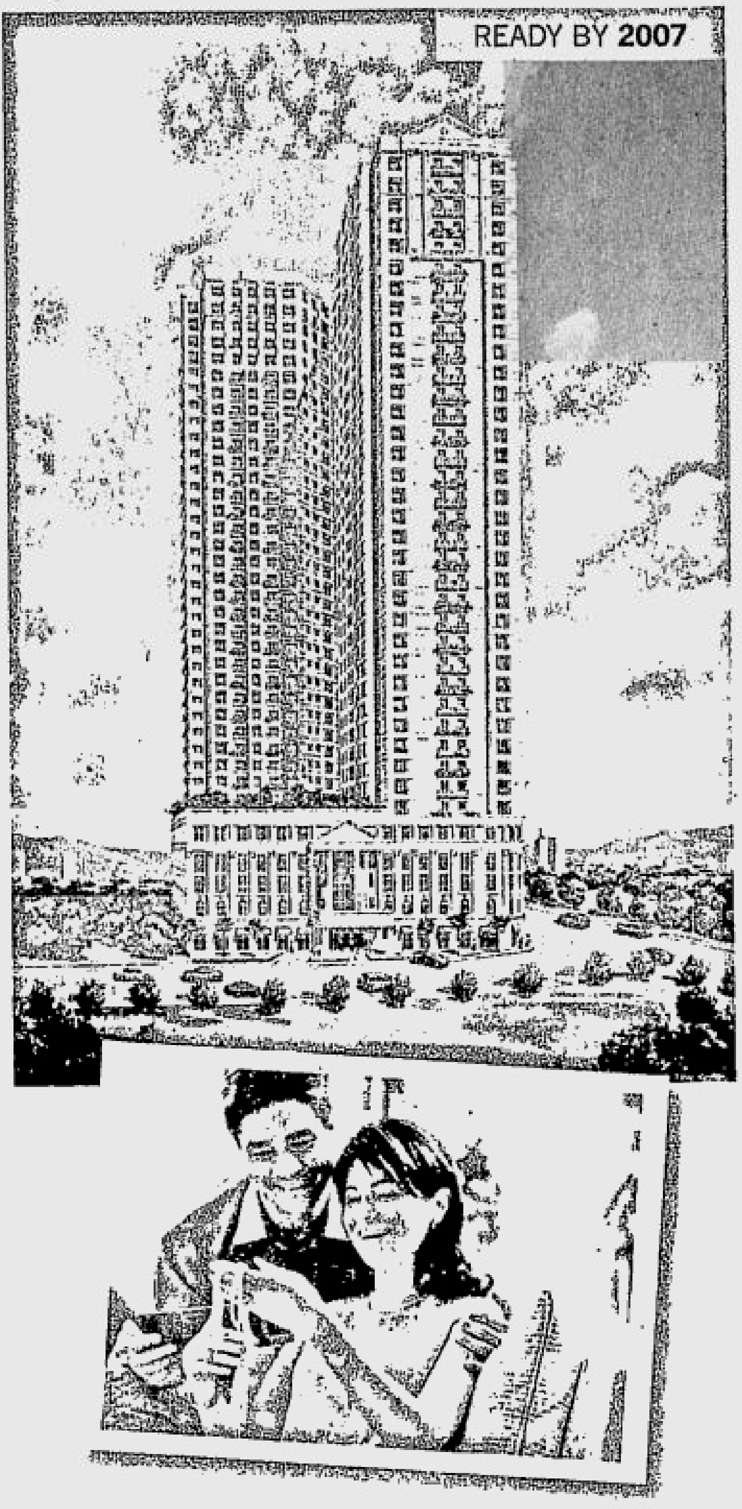

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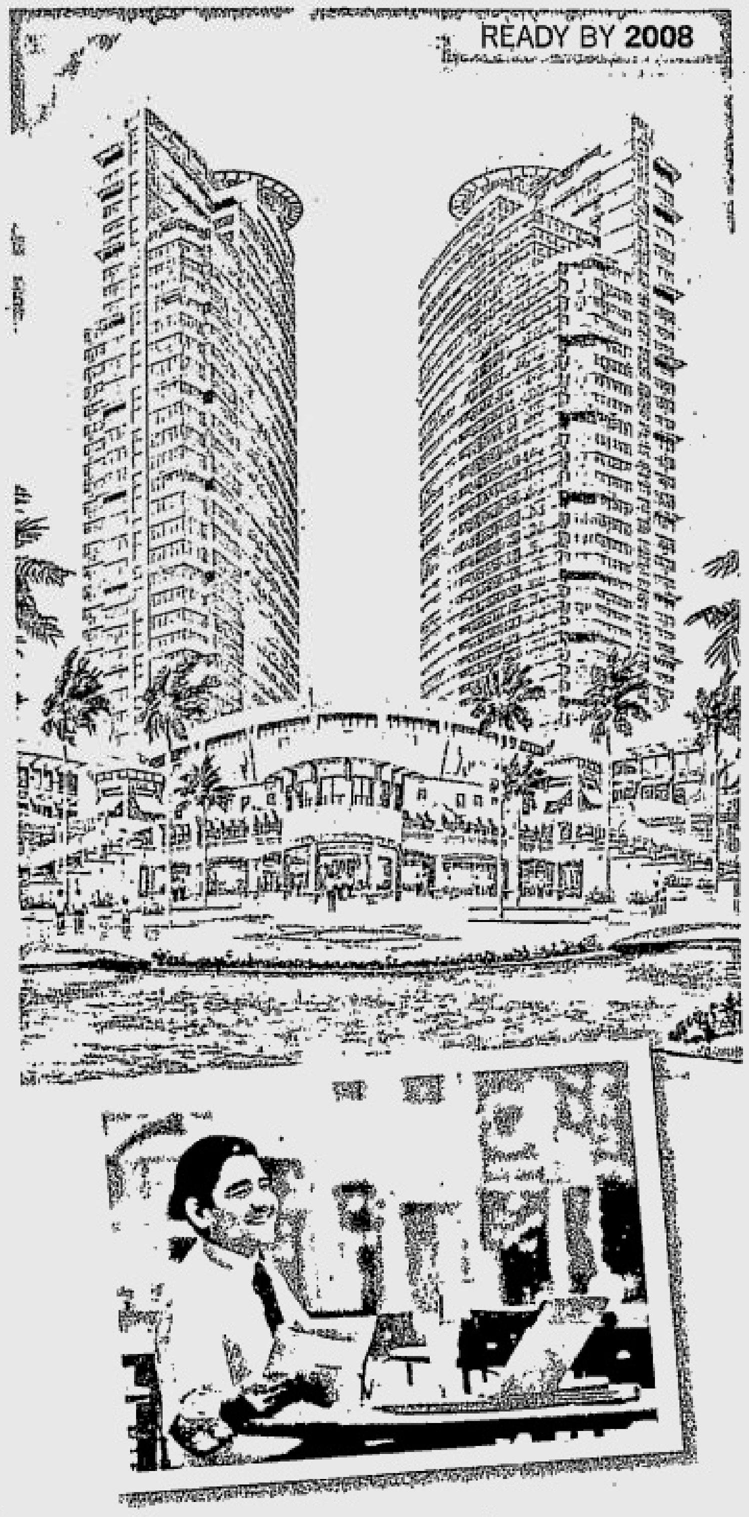

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

Registration survival guide for teen voters

By Joey G. Alarilla
INQ7.net

YOU can make a big difference in choosing our next leaders and shaping our country's future, but your opinion won't count unless you go out to register and vote. If you're voting for the first time on May 10, 2004 and you're a bit nervous about registering, relax—we're here to guide you through the process. Maybe some of you haven't realized that the registration period has started, or maybe you're waiting to register at the last minute. Whatever the case may be, this survival guide aims to make the process easier for you—but the choice to exercise your right to vote is entirely up to you.

Who can register

- If you're turning 18 by May 10, 2004, then you're qualified to vote. Now you really feel like an adult, huh?
- You must be a resident of the Philippines for at least one year and a resident of the place where you intend to vote for at least six months on or before the May 10, 2004 elections.
- You're not otherwise disqualified by law. Some of the things that would disqualify you from registering are:

You've been sentenced by final judgment to imprisonment of not less than one year.

You've been found by final judgment to be guilty of crimes involving disloyalty to the duly constituted government, including rebellion, sedition, violation of the firearms law, or any crime against national security. So don't plan a coup or mutiny and expect to still vote.

You've been declared crazy by proper authorities—crazy not in a good fun-loving, daredevil, bungy-jumping way but as in insane.

When you can register

Registration is ongoing until Oct. 31, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday to Sunday. So there's really no excuse—just find a convenient day out of seven days a week from now until Oct. 31. And it's better not to wait until the last minute—help get rid of the mañana habit. You'll also have more time to concentrate on honoring your dead relatives and planning Halloween parties by the time Oct. 31 arrives.

Where to go

You'll go to the Office of the Election Officer of the city, municipality or district where you reside and intend to vote.

What to bring

You'll have to personally accomplish two copies of the prescribed application form. You can already reproduce or photocopy this and accomplish the form even before you go to the Office of the Election Officer to apply for registration. Download the form from this site.

You'll have to bring certain documents with you to prove your identity. After all, you don't want flying voters ruining your choice, do you? It's also important to note that the community tax certificate or *cedula* will not be honored.

Those who are turning 18 by May 10, 2004 will submit a 1x1 or 2x2 ID picture. You must submit any two of the following IDs as applicable:

- Current employee ID with your picture and signature and the signature of the employer or authorized representative
- Student ID or library card with picture and signed by the school authority
- Postal ID
- Driver's license
- National Bureau of Investigation/Philippine National Police clearance with picture
- Passport

How to validate

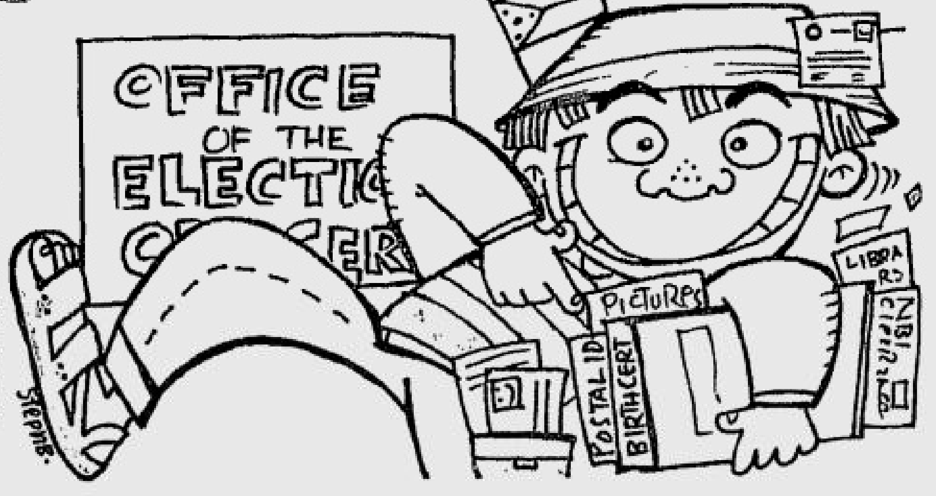
Even if you're already a registered voter prior to the ongoing list-up for the May 10, 2004 polls, remember that you still have to validate your existing registration record. Validation simply means submitting yourself at a Data Capture Workstation established by the Commission on Elections, for the live capture of your biometrics data, which will include:

- Your photograph as captured on digital camera
- Your signature as captured on the signature pad
- Fingerprints lifted from applicant's right index, left index, right thumb and left thumb using Morphosmart

For validation, you have to personally accomplish two copies of the prescribed application form (get it here) and bring any two of the IDs we listed above. Unlike in registration, however, you can apply in any of the satellite offices established by the Election Officer, not just in the Office of the Election Officer in your city, municipality or district. Again, keep in mind that a *cedula* won't be honored. Application for validation is ongoing until Dec. 12, Monday to Sunday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

You might think it's such a hassle to register, but you can't enjoy the right to choose unless you're willing to exert a little effort. Think of it as lining up for enrollment in school, or queuing up for a movie or concert you really want to see. So, register as soon as you can and make your vote count, and tell all your friends to do same.

After all, it's your future, too.



It's such a hassle, but you can't enjoy the right to choose unless you're willing to exert a little effort

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Picking Leo's brain

"The Da Vinci Code"
By Dan Brown
Bantam Press

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

REVIEW

CENTURIES after Leonardo da Vinci passed away, he continues to haunt us with his vast intellectual legacy. From "Mona Lisa" and "Vitruvian Man," to inventions that were way ahead of his time, our society has been greatly influenced by the mind of this genius. Even now, teen idols, merchandise and ninja turtles have been named after this Renaissance master.

Where great minds trail, controversy and conspiracy theories also follow. Reports of Da Vinci's homosexuality and paganism still interest us today.

The theory that "Mona Lisa" is a self-portrait is still being explored. Clearly, every genius has his share of eccentricities. And, being the natural voyeurs that we are, explore them we must.

Such is the selling point of Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code," a mystery thriller that is, for me, one of the surprise hits in the literary world. Now an international bestseller, "The Da Vinci Code" has it all—mystery, history, suspense, PG-7 romance and conspiracy.

Murder at the Louvre

The last of these ingredients is of the religious kind, so it may just be the one that will either gather readers or drive them away. Given that religion is often a touchy subject, it is admirable that Brown took the risk and got away with it. That is, he provokes readers with questions and historical facts, and explains them in detail without digressing from the story and boring readers.

It is the 21st century, and Jacques Sauniere, curator of the Louvre, has been brutally murdered inside the museum. The French police summons Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon to decode the riddles that have been discovered alongside Sauniere's body. Langdon and cryptologist Sophie Neveu sort out through these riddles and are mystified to see the trail leading to the works of Leonardo da Vinci.

It has become clear, then, that the mystery of Sauniere's death goes way back to the annals of history. The pair discovers that the deceased curator had been involved in the Priory of Sion and gave up his life to protect its most guarded secret: the location of a religious relic that has been hidden for centuries.

Even worse, Langdon is now the prime suspect in the murder of Sauniere. Together, Langdon and Neveu run from the suspicious French police and try to decode Sauniere's riddles. Unless they get to it before the religious sect Opus Dei or an unknown enemy called the Teacher does, the historical truth that many have died for through the centuries will be lost forever.

Web of conspiracy

What is intriguing about this book is its sheer volume of historical and scientific information that few people ever know. It is a fact that the Priory of Sion existed, with the likes of Isaac Newton and Leonardo da Vinci as its Grand Masters. A Jacques Sauniere did exist in 1885, and was assigned by the Catholic Church to the parish of Rennes-le-Chateau.

Through this web of celebrity conspiracies (Brown even incorporates Walt Disney in his dissection of Disney films), the suspense heightens and makes the book difficult to put down.

As a book with much to explain, Brown succeeds in making it readable and less daunting by making the chapters short. Each fast-paced chapter elevates the reader's anticipation for the next one. And as each part of the mystery is solved, the pair is led to the romance surrounding the Knights Templar, the same medieval group that Anne Rice used to explain the nature of her dark characters. But unlike Rice, Brown uses the Knights Templar in a less fantastical way.

Treasure hunt

"The Da Vinci Code" is, in simple terms, the fictional story of an elaborate yet non-fictional treasure hunt that continues to be a mystery even today. The religious relic in question is still shrouded in controversy as to its true nature. Brown surprises readers by delving into this true nature, thus making it not just a treasure hunt, but also an exploration of the Catholic faith. Conservative Catholics may find the book heretical, as it deconstructs the violent beginnings of the religion and how it overthrew paganism by means of incorporating its symbols into Christianity.

Feminists, however, will laud the book as it raises awareness on the "sacred feminine" and transports the reader back into the time when matriarchal paganism was dominant over patriarchal religious institutions.

PICKING/ C3

Hope Dawns For
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ADOPT AN ORPHANAGE

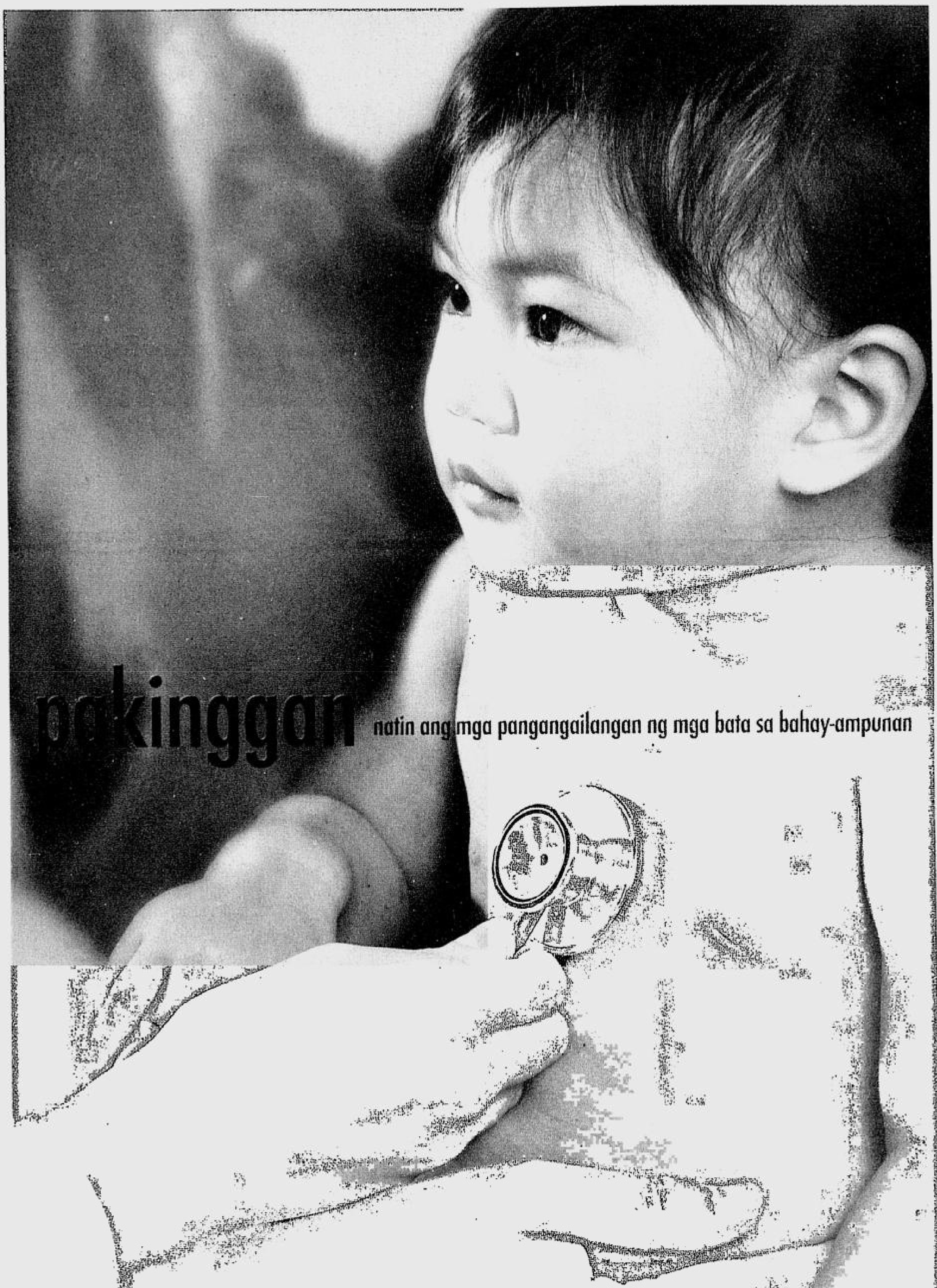
In an era of unprecedented global wealth, millions of institutionalised children all over the world are facing a health crisis. As a result of being housed together, these children pose a special problem with regards to control and transmission of communicable but preventable diseases. Even if these children were provided with shelter, food and care, the increasing incidence of communicable diseases in this segment of population somehow translates to inadequate provision of needs.

A local study done showed a very low immunization rate among children in orphanages. Although efforts are being made to improve their immunization status, a number of factors, which prevent achievement of this goal, exist. Among those cited were, lack of immunization programs, lack of immunization records, and unavailability of vaccines.

United Laboratories Consumer Health (ULCH), makers of **BIOGESIC FOR KIDS**, in partnership with the Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc. and Mercury Drug, is embarking on a mission in response to the medical needs of children in Philippine orphanages. Adopt-an-Orphanage, a program that aims to provide pediatric health assessment and immunization for measles, mumps, German measles (MMR), Hepatitis B and Hemophilus influenzae B (HiB), was conceptualized. This is in support of the Department of Health Expanded Program on Immunization, which are limited to BCG, DPT, OPV and measles.

The Adopt-an-Orphanage Program also gives the consumers a chance to share in this endeavor. Effective September 2003, every purchase of **BIOGESIC FOR KIDS** in any Mercury Drugstore outlet corresponds to a one-peso donation to the Adopt-an-Orphanage fund.

Through the concerted effort of these organizations, it is hoped that we may help uplift the plight of these children so that someday, they may truly become the HOPE OF OUR NATION.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ADOPT AN ORPHANAGE

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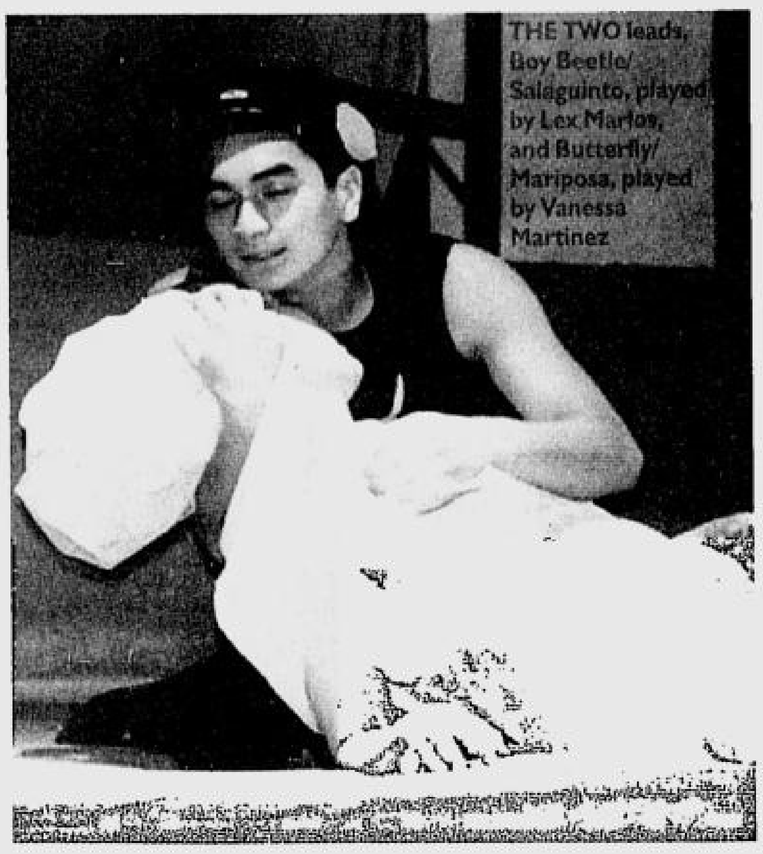
Beetle and butterfly in forbidden embrace



THE TWO leads, Boy Beetle/ Salaguinto, played by Lex Marlos, and Butterfly/ Mariposa, played by Vanessa Martinez

Dulaang UP's take on Frederico Garcia Lorca's unconventional fairy tale romance is not for kids only

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

A WOUNDED butterfly falls amid the tall grass and dark earth of the Andalusian plains. Startled by the intrusion, a colony of stern, quiet beetles hovers nearby at first. But soon, their apprehension turns into compassion, and they take the butterfly in and nurse her back to health.

But somehow, the barriers long raised by ignorance and inter-species animosity remain. The beetles feel they have done their insectisoid duty, nothing more. The sooner the creature in colors can fly out of their speck of dust, the better.

Except for one of their poets, who is transfixed by the flying creature's rainbow hues and her tales of otherworldly splendor flying the azure skies of open space.

Against all tradition and reason, the poet-beetle and the wounded butterfly fall in love.

Martyr

Dulaang UP's (DUP) production of "The Butterfly's Evil Spell" may sound like the average kiddie-theater material, but don't be fooled.

Not when the author of said play is Frederico Garcia Lorca, probably Spain's greatest poet and a martyr to his art, which dared break down long-established conventions on gender, relationships, human rights and other ideas considered radical during the first part of the 1900s.

At the helm of this play is Jose Estrella, DUP's artistic director, whose choice of materials remains diverse and unpredictable. Her treatment of them never ceases to provoke the audience into thinking and reexamining society and its cherished values.

"The Butterfly's Evil Spell" ran successfully last month in UP's Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero for three weeks, and will do a one-night return engagement at the RCBC Plaza this week, as part of the month-long "Spanish Fiesta" organized by the Spanish mission in Manila and the Instituto Cervantes.

The play runs for a short hour and a half, brief enough for young mesmerized minds who may not yet be used to theater performances.

Lorca's lyricism, which discounts any vulgarity, and the director's promise of no nudity, can allow the average fourth or fifth grader to sit in, but Estrella cautions against expecting "a Disney musical."

This is not a play of cuddly creatures doing cutesy song numbers, but one that is "impressionistic and magical, relying on the power of the imagination of the audience. Children will appreciate this [illegible] not underestimate them," he [illegible]

Yet the play [illegible] more substantial and provocati[illegible] for the adults. The love story may be [illegible] but it is painful and bittersweet.

As the romance develops, the poet-beetle begins thinking of a more sublime life beyond his humdrum existence, and plans a future together with the lovely butterfly.

This sets the traditional beetle colony on edge, and the couple are ostracized and persecuted

Connection

Lorca is no stranger to these situations; his unconventional plays and books—as well as his gay lifestyle—aroused the ire of the powers-that-be in his time. All that anger culminated in his death when rabid Franco followers beat him to death in 1938.

"The play is about two species who can never really join because, as species, they are so different," says Estrella. "Yet the beetle falls so enamored with the butterfly and becomes obsessed with her. He also becomes attracted to the kind of life she leads."

The director believes that this may touch a chord of connection with the audience.

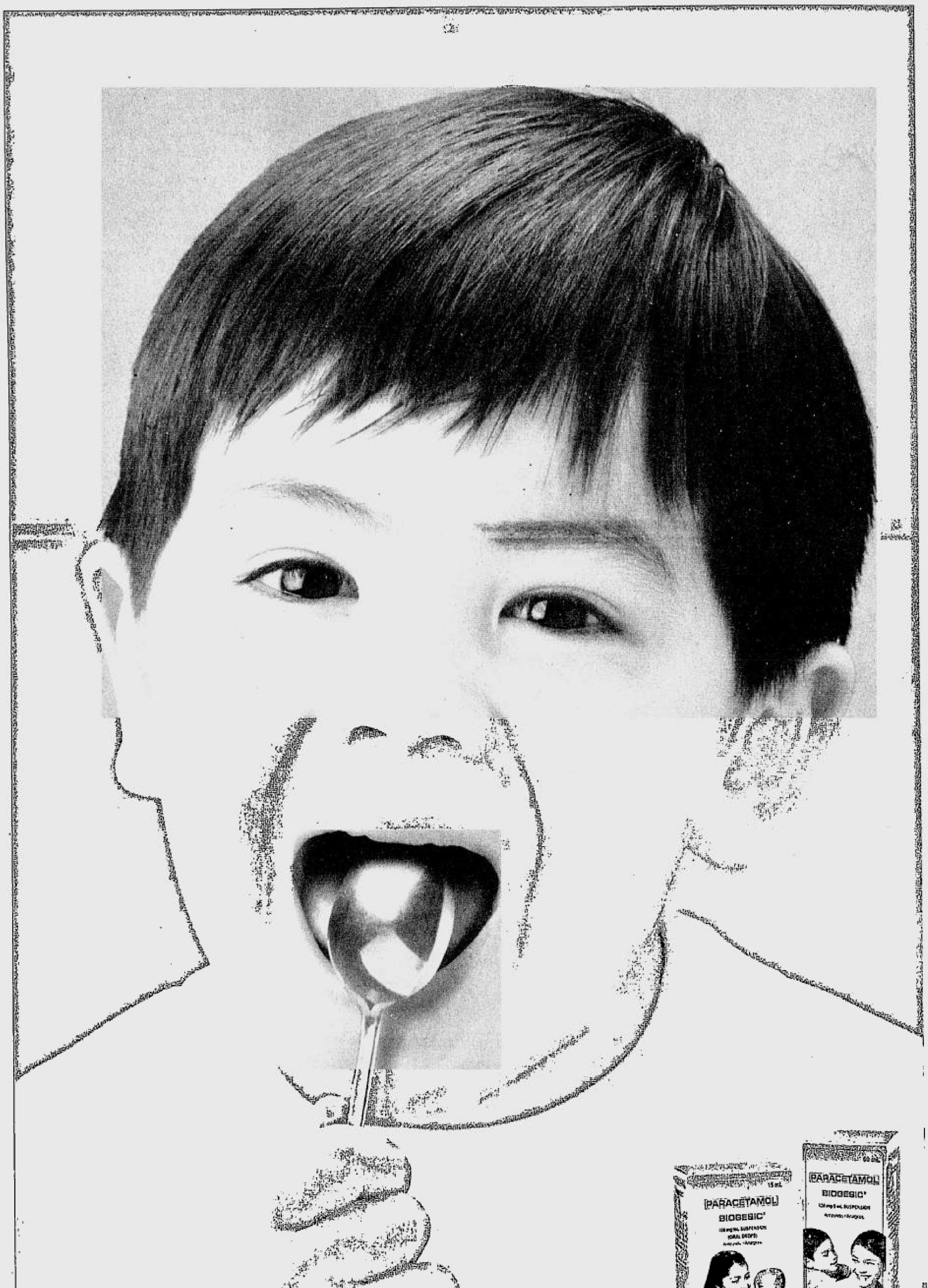
"All of us are looking for another kind of life in one way or another. People in general want to explore beyond the boundaries of their world, go out and see something wondrous," he says.

The hostility of the beetle community toward the unconventional couple addresses changing perspectives on tolerance and acceptance, bigotry, diversity and discrimination as they apply to a wide range of issues—from gender, homosexuality, unconventional artistry, to any other form of uniqueness.

So, will the beetle and his lady butterfly somehow find a way to be one, biological and other differences notwithstanding? Can the audience look forward to a happy ending or a poignant one?

Estrella adamantly refuses to give away the ending. "It will speak of regeneration, spiritual rebirth and metamorphosis," he says.

"The Butterfly's Evil Spell" will be staged at 7:30 tonight at the RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Call 9261349 or 5261482.



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Picking Leo's brain

From page C2

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But instead of fully exploiting this religious controversy, the novel turns into a whodunit mystery. To still maintain the etherealness of the mysterious holy relic, the author manages to satisfy readers by unmasking the Teacher. The strength of the book therefore lies in maintaining a balance between resolution and imagination. And after all of the riddles and codes, it is remarkable to realize that one of the greatest mysteries of all—the faith of man—remains, indeed, unfathomable.

Available in paperback at PowerBooks and National Book Store

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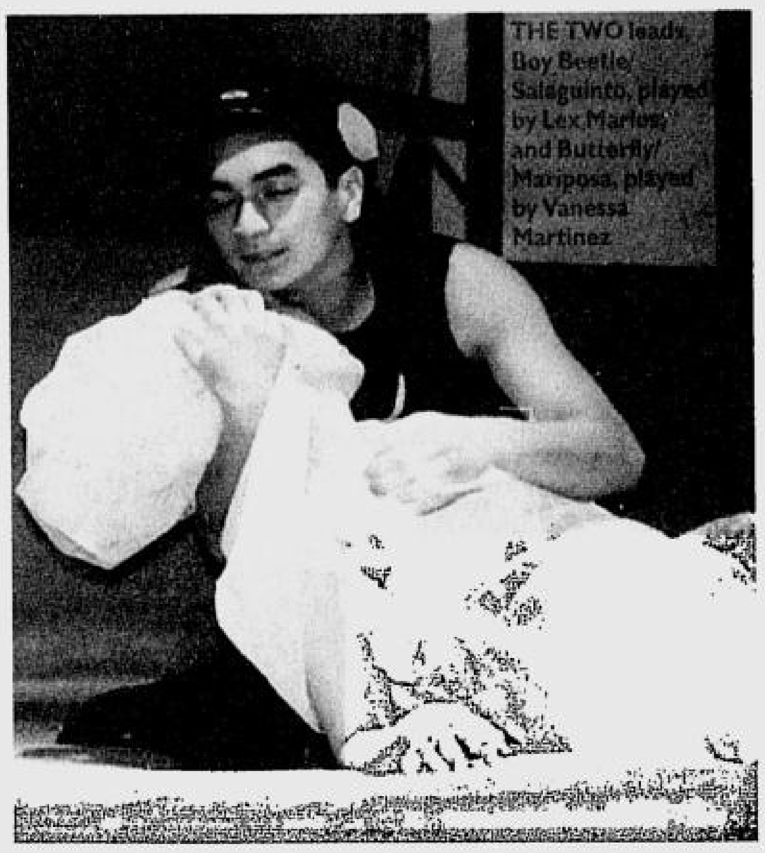
Beetle and butterfly in forbidden embrace

Dulaang UP's take on Frederico Garcia Lorca's unconventional fairy tale romance is not for kids only



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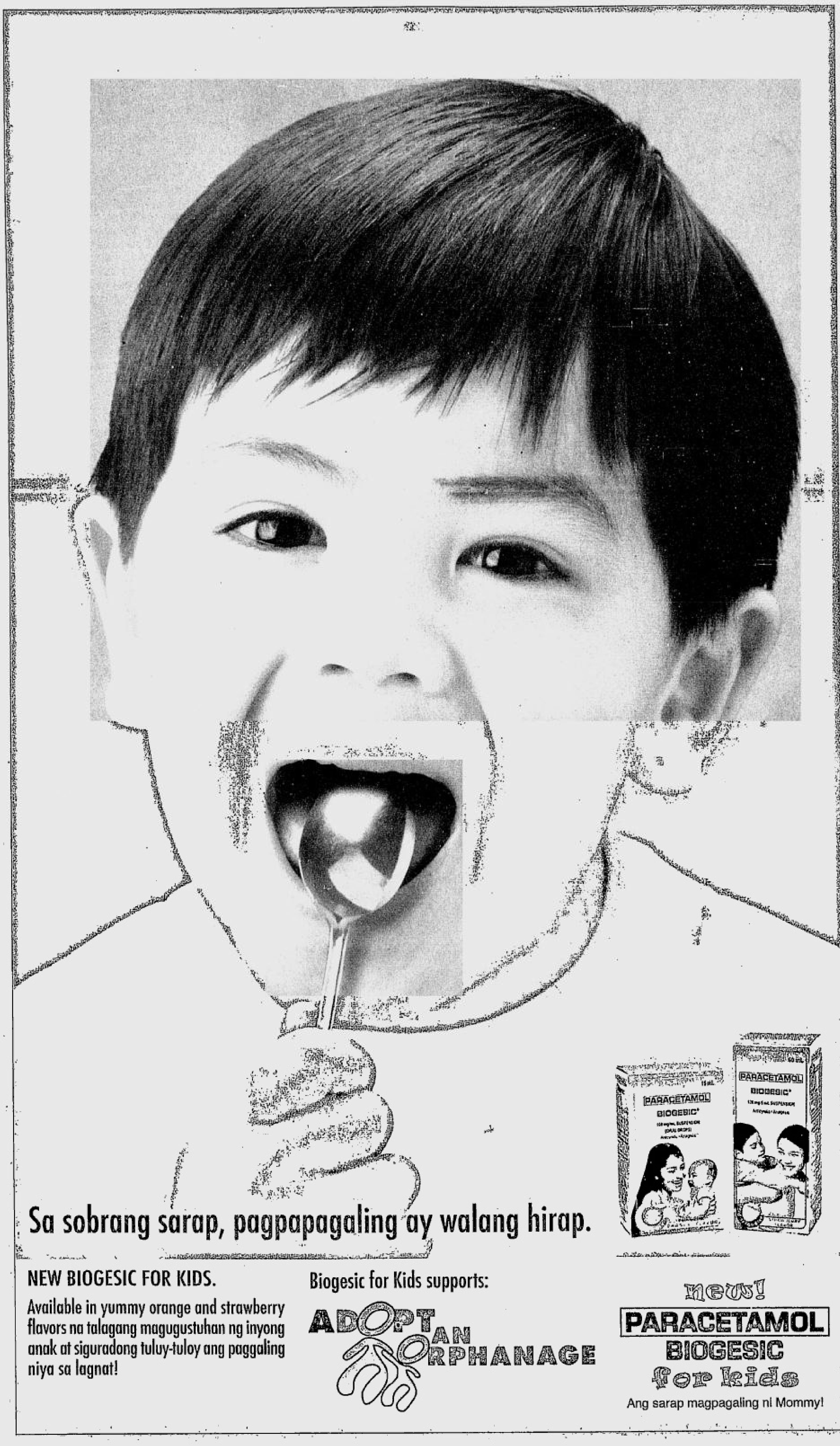

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More than scholars, bearers of hope

By Gibbs Cadiz

REMEMBER VJ Belinda Panelo and her "I love my Panasonic!" ad?

She may be gone as spokesperson of the well-known electronics brand, but many others will gladly take her place to swear their love for it—guys and girls nowhere near as famous, but with more heart to mouth the ad.

Panasonic, it turns out, has many more endearing qualities going for it other than all those funky hi-fi players and first-rate TV sets.

Since 1998, it has been sending scholars from six Asian countries to Japan to do research and complete master's degrees in engineering and the natural sciences in top-ranked Japanese universities.

To date, 15 Filipino scholars have already benefited from Panasonic's largesse. This year, three more made the cut and are set to leave in March 2004: Melvin Jeffrey Chan of La Salle, Andrea Teran of Ateneo de Manila and Mark Ismael Boyonas of UP-Diliman.

All three are 22 years old.

Their three-year scholarship grants include an arrival allowance, a monthly allowance, full tuition and matriculation assistance and airfare. The monthly subsidy amounts to Y150,000 (around P68,000)—enough to encourage them to focus on their studies and not have to look for a day job.

On their first year, the three scholars will enroll as research students and undertake intensive Japanese language training.

For the next two years, they will register and complete their respective master's degrees: Chan in Electronic Materials Engineering at Tokyo University, Teran in Environmental Chemistry at Kyoto University and Boyonas in Industrial Systems Engineering at the Tokyo Institute of Technology.

Coincidental

The fact that all three came from Manila's blue-chip universities is merely coincidental, says Gaye Bulot, Panasonic scholarship office coordinator.

"*Nagkataon lang talaga,*" she explains. "Our search is nationwide, and in the previous batches we had scholars from the University of Santo Tomas, Mapua and San Carlos-Cebu."

That should assuage the concerns of students interested in the scholarship that only graduates of top schools can qualify—or even that you have to be an honor graduate to pass the stringent screening process.

Teran, for example, didn't think she would make it, "because I wasn't an honor graduate, and I also didn't think of myself as an exceptional student. My grades in college (she took BS Chemistry) were more often a reflection of my attitude toward the class or the professor or the subject itself."

"Besides," she adds, recalling the four-tier qualifying mill that she went through, "you didn't have any clue whether you passed the interviews because the panelists were very professional and 'unreadable.' And everyone else seemed qualified!"

PANASONIC scholars Mark Ismael Boyonas, Melvin Jeffrey Chan and Andrea Teran

But pass she did, and by next year, she'll be in Kyoto, a city she has chosen over cosmopolitan Tokyo for its ancient, graceful airs and lovely tree-lined campus.

"I guess my advantage was that I had studied a little Japanese, and I was really interested in Japanese culture, not just the scholarship," she says. "Even in college, I was already into it, so when I graduated, I also had a minor in Japanese Studies."

Social service

In fact, the program does consider academic standing: You need a general weighted average of 1.5 or higher, plus a total of 15 years of schooling to qualify for the preliminary round. (Japan's college courses are for five years.)

But solid academic credentials are only one part of it, says Bulot.

The panel also looks for such factors as the capacity and readiness to adapt to the culture, the applicant's long-term plans after the scholarship and overall psychological stability. The battery of tests include several tough one-on-one interviews and psychological examinations.

"The reason for the rather stringent requirements is that we look at these scholarships as a service to society," says Lorenz Magsingit, assistant manager at the corporate planning office of Matsushita Electric Philippines, Panasonic's mother company.

"There is no short-term goal here for Matsushita. They are not even required to work for our company after the scholarship. Instead, our long-term hope, based on the vision of our founder Konosuke Matsushita, is that these scholars will come back and, with their acquired expertise, help run the country in the future."

"These scholars will not just be students in Japan," he adds, "but quasi-ambassadors of goodwill. They will represent not just their schools but their country, so whatever they do in Japan is a reflection of the Philippines."

Extension

The program is thus a natural extension of Matsushita's corporate vision, which emphasizes that its factories and centers all over the world must gain the right to exist, grow and prosper by helping improve the country they are situated in.

Understandably, the program's focus is on the natural sciences and technical courses (except medicine), as these disciplines play a pivotal role in a country's progress toward responsible industrialization.

Both Chan and Boyonas see the scholarship as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience and learn first-hand the "Japanese way"—the much-vaunted system of research and work values that has transformed Japan from a ravaged nation after World War II into one of the world's economic powerhouses.

"Aside from the cross-cultural exposure, I'd like to bring back skills that we don't have yet in the country," says Boyonas, who is set to major in manufacturing quality systems. Specifically, he plans to go back to his native Cagayan de Oro after his grant and teach there.

"I'd like to help industrialize the countryside," he says. Chan, like Teran, has always been fascinated with Japan. Its "excellent industrial standards" are worth emulating, he says, and that's what he intends to learn through his scholarship.

As a kid living in Hong Kong with his family, Chan had the opportunity to study both Chinese and Japanese languages. He isn't fluent yet in the latter, but he's getting there, aided in no small part by hours of formal study and watching animé.

"The animé shows on AXN channel with their subtitles are especially helpful," he says, chuckling.

All three were given a free hand to look for and choose their host professors—guides-cum-teachers who will take them in as "*kenkyusei,*" or modern-day apprentices in an academic setting. The Internet has been a big help in their search, they say.

Extended

The Panasonic scholarship program will continue to look for Filipino scholars until 2007. Bulot says it was supposed to end this year, but Matsushita decided to extend the program for four more years, despite the lingering Japanese recession.

The only austerity measure the company imposed was to reduce the contingent from the original five scholars of the previous batches to three beginning this year. Well, five or three is always better than none.

For now, it's only fitting to commend our new scholars and send them off with a hearty "*Gambatte!*" (good luck!).

And for everything it's been doing for our youth—yes, we just love our Panasonic!

For more details about the Panasonic scholarship program, call Gaye Bulot at 2842293/635-2260 local 2820 or inquire from your school's student affairs office.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

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BARR needs three more crocodile species to be the first person to capture all 23.

Step aside, Crocodile Dundee; Crocodile Brady is here

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

HAVING spent a huge fraction of his life studying and getting up close and personal with the crocs, Brady Barr has got to be the King of Crocs. At the least, he is a precious buddy to the crocs that seem to refuse to devour him no matter how starved they are.

Also known as "Gator Doc," herpetologist Brady Barr has turned his lifelong love for alligators and crocodiles into ambitious field studies of the ferocious reptiles. And with his good looks and innate charm (I think he resembles Patrick Guzman), he has also invaded our telly screens via the National Geographic Channel.

In fact, he has just finished the 13th and last episode of the third season of his series "Croc Chronicles." He'll be going to Africa to start a snake special focusing on giant snakes like huge pythons.

But why crocodiles of all animals? As a boy, he had been interested in dinosaurs. And with the crocodiles' scales and big toothy mouths, they simply resembled dinosaurs to the eager kid.

"In my opinion, they're the ultimate survivors," he says. "They're also maybe the ultimate predators. They can survive an entire year on a single meal. They can survive harsh conditions when everything else goes to hell."

Brady thinks that crocodiles aren't ugly; they're all good-looking. But he is partial to a couple of types.

"There's a species called the Cuban crocodile which I like a lot," he says. "It's like banana yellow in color. Black spots. I also recently did a film on the African dwarf crocodile. That's the smallest species. It's kind of small and cute. But they're all very unique in their own way."

They may be unique but this doesn't stop Barr from seeing the similarities between humans and crocs.

"They take care of their kids. In fact, in many ways, they're better parents than a lot of people I know. They're good parents. They're very perceptive. They know what's going on around them.

"They're also probably similar in that they can't be trusted. You don't want to turn your back on crocs, and I know a lot of people you don't want to turn your backs on."

He even says how some people link crocodiles to actual beings. "In some places I go, the locals have given them names because they remind them of local political figures," he says. "Mean or ugly, or you know something like that. It seems like most places I go, the locals have names for the big crocodiles in that area."

Dangerous but important

As a crocodilian biologist who spends a great deal of his time being intimate with these reptiles, he definitely knows what he's dealing with.

"They're incredibly dangerous because they're tough predators and we're talking about an animal which reaches lengths of seven meters and can weigh a thousand kilos. But they're not bloodthirsty monsters. They're fascinating social animals."

He also knows that despite their horrifying repute, crocodiles are important to the ecology.

"Crocs are what are considered keystone species and that's analogous to a keystone in a building and every building has a keystone, whether it's this one here or this one here," he says. "But if you pull that stone out, the building can collapse. Well, with crocodiles being a keystone species, if you remove the croc the ecosystem can collapse, meaning that's how important they are."

The animals may be subjects of fear because of their intimidating appearance and ferocity, but despite these, there are threats to their existence. According to Barr, the threats include "humans, laws of habitat, damming rivers, draining wetlands, dying in fisherman's nets [and] killing out of fear or ignorance."

"Really, humans are the only threat to crocodiles and let me tell you this," he adds. "Crocs have been on the planet for 200 million years, much longer than dinosaurs.

"They survived when dinosaurs went extinct. So it's sad that they've been around so

STEP/ D2

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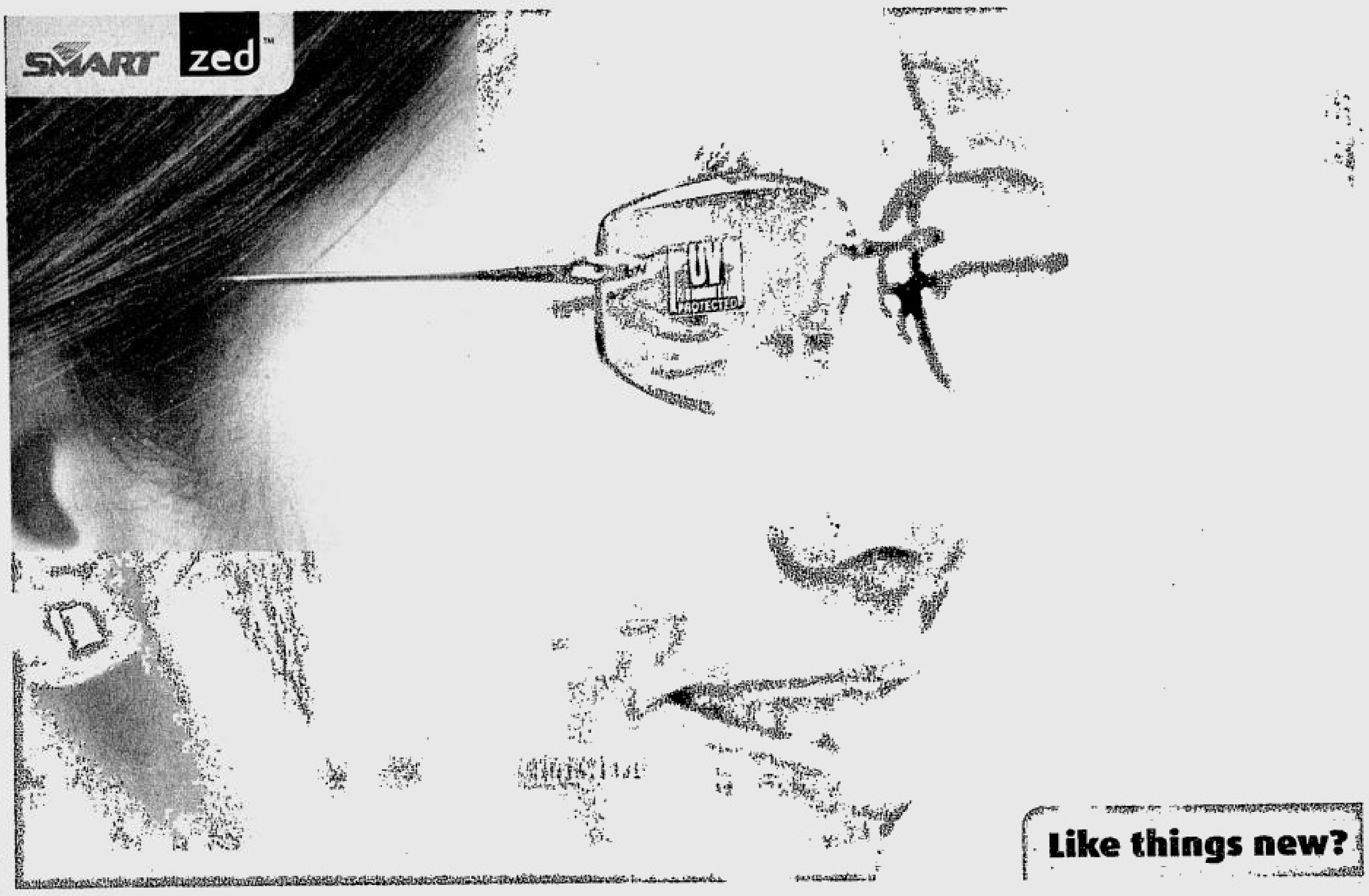

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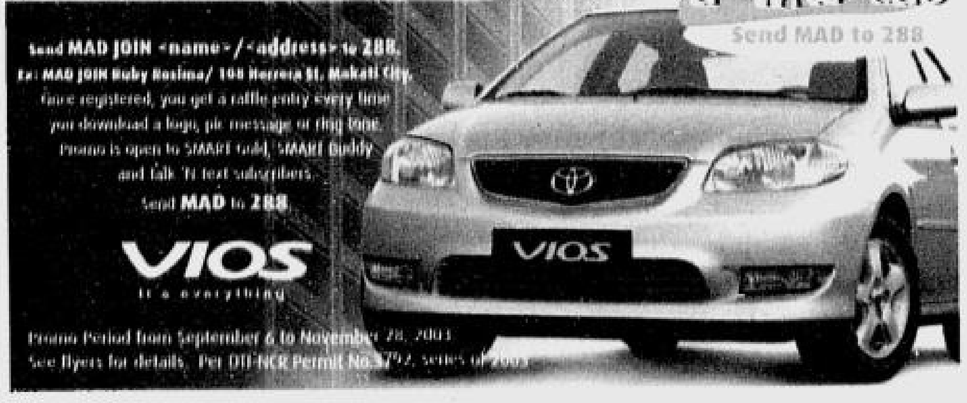

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2	Spaghetti Song	*Sexbomb*	**TONE SPAG**
3	I'll Be	*Edwin McCain*	**TONE IBE**
4	Where Is The Love	*Black Eyed Peas*	**TONE WERISLUV**
5	Unwell	*Matchbox 20*	**TONE UNWELL**
6	Numb	*Linkin Park*	**TONE NUMB**
7	Ignition	*R. Kelly*	**TONE IGNI**
8	Broken Vow	*Lara Fabian*	**TONE BROKEN**
9	Tuwing Umuulan At Kapiling Ka	*Regine Velasquez*	**TONE UMUULAN**
10	Can't Lose You	*F4*	**TONE CANTLOSE**
11	Here We Are	*F4*	**TONE HEREWE**
12	Banal Na Aso	*Yano*	**TONE BANAL**
13	Thoia Thoing	*R. Kelly*	**TONE THOIA**
14	Build Me Up, Buttercup	*Sound Alike*	**TONE BUTTERCUP**
15	Get Busy	*Sean Paul*	**TONE GETBUSY**
16	Bigger Than My Body	*John Mayer*	**TONE BIGGER**
17	If You're Not The One	*Daniel Bedingfield*	**TONE IFYOURNOT**
18	Faint	*Linkin Park*	**TONE FAINT**
19	Bliss	*Alice Peacock & John Mayer*	**TONE BLISS**
20	Asereje	*Las Ketchup*	**TONE ASEREJE**

Hollywood	*Madonna*	**TONE HOLLY**
On A High	*Duncan Sheik*	**TONE ONAHIGH**
Mr. Suave Ver. 2	*Parokya Ni Edgar*	**TONE MRSUAVE2**
Somebody To Love	*George Michael*	**TONE TOLOVEU**
So Gone	*Monica*	**TONE SOGONE**
I'm Still Here	*Vertical Horizon*	**TONE STILLHERE**
How Soon Is Now	*TATU*	**TONE HOWSOON**
I Will Love Again	*Lara Fabian*	**TONE LOVEAGN**
What Dreams Are Made Of	*Hilary Duff*	**TONE WHATDREAMS**
The Loneliest Person I Know	*Splender*	**TONE LONELIEST**

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2 Send to 288.
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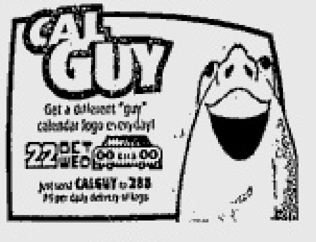

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Step aside, Crocodile Dundee; Crocodile Brady is here

2bU! flies to Hong Kong to spend some time with Mr. Crocodile

From page D1

long and survived the mass extinction that the planet has seen, yet we humans are wiping them out."

Waving the flag

Barr has devoted his time and talent for the welfare of crocs. Whether as a teacher or a TV host, his passion for the reptiles has always been evident.

"I'm an educator first and foremost," he says. "I'm a former teacher. I used to teach high school in the States. I think that it's educating others that these animals are important to the planet. And that for a healthy planet, we need to conserve them and our natural resources here on earth. Just spread the word, wave the flag."

But he sometimes feels people do not share his advocacy.

"There are a lot of people that are raising money and conservation efforts for all the warm and fuzzies; for pandas, for koalas, but there aren't a whole lot of people out there waving the flag for snakes and crocs. So you know it's kind of a lonesome battle. I kind of feel like I'm out there all by myself."

Dangers

Getting close to a crocodile isn't exactly everyone's cup of tea, but even with experienced people like Barr, doing so still results in not-so-pretty experiences.

"Dangerous situations occur on a weekly basis with me. They all kind of blend together," he says nonchalantly.

But he has his own preferences.

"I find working with venomous snakes much more stressful than working with crocodiles because they're just so fast," he says. "It doesn't matter how careful you are or how much precautions you take. You make one mistake, you just take your eye off the snake and look at the camera, you can be bitten and many of the snakes we work with are so dangerous that you're gonna die."

He adds: "Crocs are more forgiving. You can make mistakes around crocs and not die. Experience is everything when you work with these animals. I'm very comfortable around crocodiles. I won't hesitate to get in the water. I've had so much experience I can read the animal. You look for subtle clues, body language and demeanor of the animal."

But Barr has fears.

"A fear that I always have is that people will try to emulate what I'm doing," he says. "They watch TV and think, hey let's go try to capture a big croc. It's dangerous for me and it is also dangerous for the crocodile because it's easy to kill a big crocodile."

With death in the picture, precaution should be practiced. But it is also good to foster trust.

"Experience is everything. You just have to read the situation. The crew that I'm with has got to trust me. If I tell the cameraman it's safe to get in the water, it's safe to get in the water. I mean, he trusts me."

Despite all the safety measures, though, he has been a witness to a few unfortunate incidents. A friend died from snake bite. Some of the crew died of malaria during shoots. He had even pulled dead human beings straight out of the crocs' toothy mouths.

Fortunately for Barr, he hasn't ended up as lunch or dinner yet. When asked if he has ever eaten a crocodile, he spits out a standard answer: "We have a deal. I don't eat them, they don't eat me."

Scientific reason

One of Brady Barr's greatest goals is to become the first person to capture and study all 23 crocodilian species on earth. With the rate he's going, it looks like he is going to achieve that.

THE AUTHOR (left) couldn't resist posing with the Patrick Guzman look-alike.

"There are 23 species of crocs on the planet. I need three more. No one has ever placed their hands on all 23 in the wild. The three I need are in the Philippines, China and Malaysia. So all three species are in Asia. In the next few months I should come back and do a swing through Asia and hopefully get all three."

Barr says he always works with local scientists. "There has to be a scientific reason for us to put our hands on the animal."

And what is that scientific reason?

"Well, it all depends," he replies. "Last two weeks ago we were in Africa and we were capturing a crocodile to put a radio transmitter on it so a scientist can monitor their movements. Sometimes, it's to capture them and remove blood or tissue, to get the DNA, to get a genetic fingerprint of the animal."

"I was recently in Australia and we captured crocodiles and we were scraping their teeth with dental tools, because the scientist was looking at the bacteria on the teeth," he adds. "So the science always changes. Ever changing. Ever evolving."

With all the quality time he has spent with crocs, Barr considers himself a parent.

"I'm almost like a parent. I never tire of looking and learning about them. They always keep me amazed. I'm proud of them. If one's particularly hard to catch, I'm always smiling. Like they're my kids."

And what does his wife have to say about all these? "She's always terrified, but she also trusts my judgment and my abilities. She's worried about me but she also knows that I'm very, very careful."

Thanks to Agatep Associates and Jenny Yip, marketing executive of National Geographic Channel Asia

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

Croc talk with the Croc King

HERE are some beauty-pageant questions and the Croc King's applause-inducing replies to them.

What are you afraid of?

Bats. Terrified. I do not like bats. I've been there, done that, I did not like bats.

What would you do if you were given the chance to be a crocodile for only a day?

It would be tremendous to be able to swim underwater. I would do as much exploring as I could. I think I would test out all the abilities of the croc. They're so powerful, I think it would be great to see how high you can jump, how fast you can dive into the water. Just to feel that power in that body would be tremendous.

If you were a crocodile granted the chance to eat someone whole, who would that unfortunate person be?

I may get in trouble. Well, there's another guy on TV who does similar things to what I do. I might eat my competition.

If your kiss could turn a crocodile into anyone, who would that be?

That would get me in trouble too. I would probably bring back somebody that was no longer here. I would bring back my buddy who was killed by a snake a couple of years ago. He probably wouldn't be happy that I had to kiss him to bring him back.

What kind of reptile do you think you were in another life?

Maybe some kind of lizard. Some kind of climbing lizard. Fast. I'm very impatient. I'm always doing something. I'd probably be a lizard. I'm always running around. Moving. Tongue flicking.

If someone was going to make a movie about you, what would it be called and who would play you?

They probably already made it. It's called "Dumb and Dumber." I don't know. I want somebody big and strong, maybe Mel Gibson can play me. Maybe it would be called "Crocs Forever" something like that.

Niño Mark M. Sablan

TEN ACCOMPLISHED YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS 2003 CALL for ENTRIES
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Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations
TAYO

Kilos Ko! MIRANT INQUIRER CALTEX CEBU PACIFIC SuperFerry Philippine Council for Young Political Leaders Foundation for Governance & Convergence

Old acquaintance sweeps married woman off her feet

Niño Mark Sablan
& September Mabino

DEAR Mark and Sep,

I'm 21 years old, married, with a son. I met a guy one night on my way home. I knew this guy when I was in Grade 5, but we were never personally introduced.

I don't know what happened that night, but when our eyes met, we smiled at each other. We were from the same place, so we shared the same trip. The way our conversation went, it seemed like we had known each other for a very long time.

I told him I was married with a son. He didn't believe me. He asked for my cell phone number and I gave it to him. Then we started texting each other. I've learned that he has a girlfriend. I know and I can feel that he can't leave his girlfriend for me, the same way that I can't leave my husband for him.

But I don't know why I can't let go of him. I love his company. I'm happy when we're together, and I can feel that it's the same with him. I know in my heart that he can't replace my husband. But no matter how hard I try, I still miss him and I still long for him.

We are still dating.

CHRISTINA

Maybe you were supposed to be childhood sweethearts back then, but it just didn't push through. So now that your paths have once again crossed, you're "continuing" what you weren't able to finish. But if what you're continuing is finding out if you could end up as lovers, better step on the brakes. You have already found someone you love (and, hopefully, loves you back), someone whom you married and vowed to be together with for the rest of your lives.

Most importantly, this is someone with whom you already have a child, for crying out loud. Don't let these special people in your life (including yourself) get hurt by fooling around. You yourself know you can't leave your family for another guy (who also happens to be committed to someone else).

All you need is a little more discipline. Find out if you can just remain friends with Mr. Grade 5. If deep in your heart you know that you don't want to lose this person and that you can't let go of your family at the same time, pursue nothing more than friendship.

You don't have to say goodbye to someone karmic; you just have to agree on his exact spot under your sun.

Weigh which party is more important, and if the one is a threat to the other, then it's time for major bye-bye.

MARK

It would be better if you stop dating the guy from your early childhood for a while in order to figure out what is wrong—in your relationship with your husband or with you.

I know how it feels to have something that is already very good but still yearn for something else that may not be better, or not even just as good. It is quite gratifying to have more than one option open to you, but the fact of life is, ultimately, we have to make a decision that makes other choices inaccessible. And that is what you need to do, given that the outcome of a lot of important relationships have become hinged on your little affair.

But let me open you to another way of looking at your situation: What if the love you think you feel for this guy is merely romanticized? It's exciting to imagine how fatal it is to bump into someone from the past and to find out things about them that you never knew before, but sometimes, that is just it.

If you've caught the reality TV series "High School Reunion," it was hilarious to see old high-school non-friends suddenly get hot and heavy for each other years after they last saw each other. Maybe they were being sincere or maybe they were just horny, but they have been definitely put into the mindset that The One Who Got Away is desirable.

Examine yourself and your feelings thoroughly. Why do you love this guy's company so much? Is he funnier, a better conversationalist, a better listener than your husband? Are you simply looking for a little diversion and this guy happened to be the perfect candidate? Be honest with yourself. Once you know the facts, you'll have a better grip on your feelings.

SEPTEMBER

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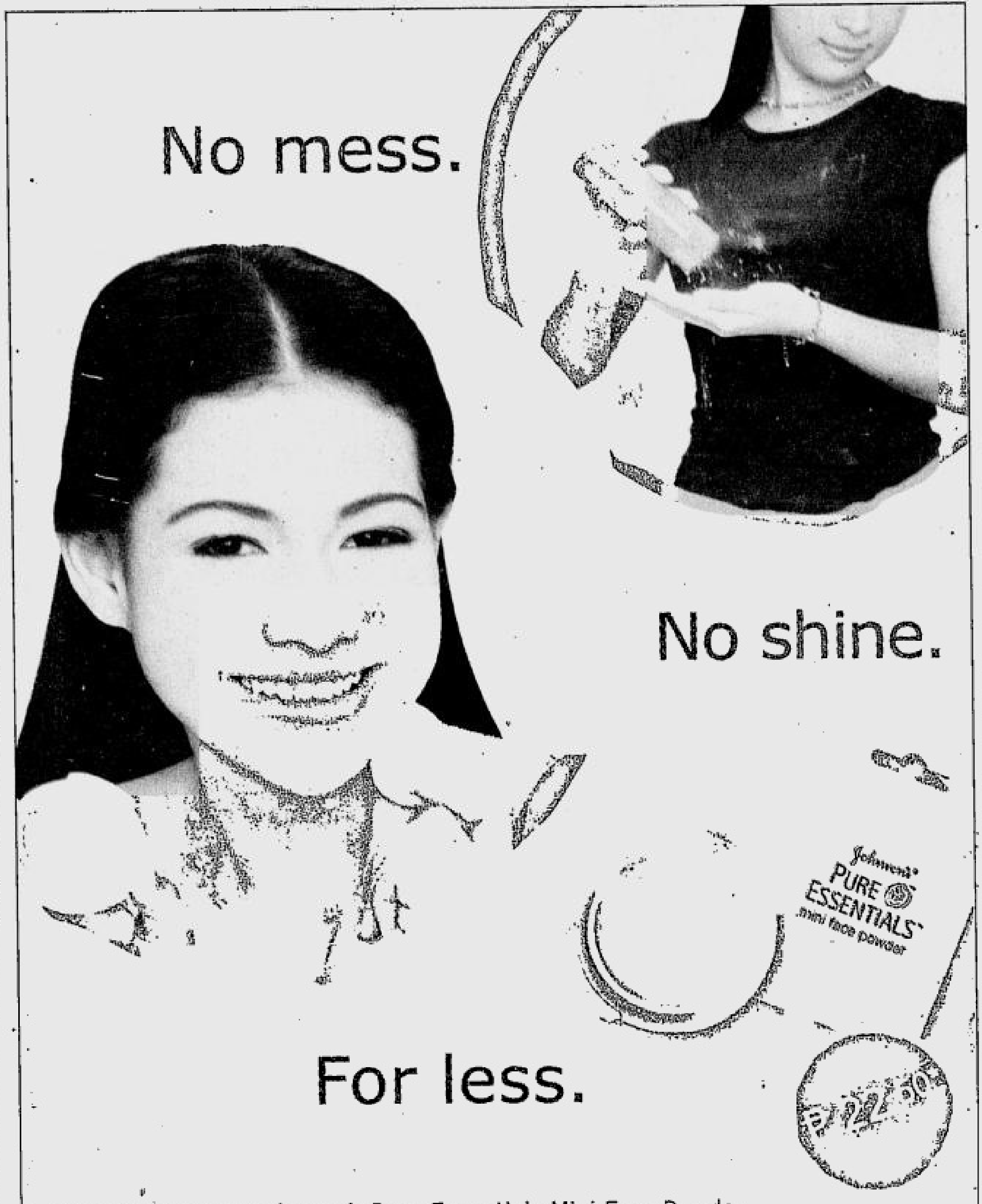

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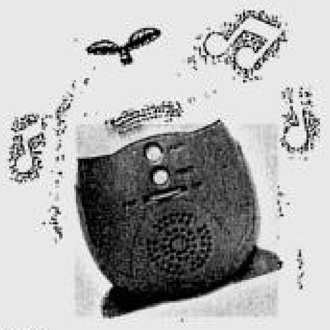

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Mumblings of musings

"Heavier Things"
John Mayer
Sony Music Philippines

By Maui Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

REVIEW

"I refuse to believe/that my life's gonna be/just some string of incompletes"—Home Life

SELLING 317,000 copies on its first week of release and bumping Hilary Duff's "Metamorphosis" to No. 2 (Oh no, how will the world cope?!), John Mayer's sophomore album, "Heavier Things," is everything that his Grammy-winning debut "Room for Squares" wasn't.

Don't expect your beloved Dave Matthews wannabe to have picked up an electric guitar and make like Lenny Kravitz on this record. Although, yes, he does still retain his breathy, effortless vocal delivery, he now pairs it with superb guitar playing, and even gives props to Roy Hargrove, who cameos in "Clarity," the first track on the album.

"Heavier Things" focuses mostly on how Mayer has grown not only musically, but lyrically, as well. It was produced by Jack Joseph Puig (who twiddled the knobs on No Doubt and Sheryl Crow's albums, among many) who has done a great job on "Heavier Things."

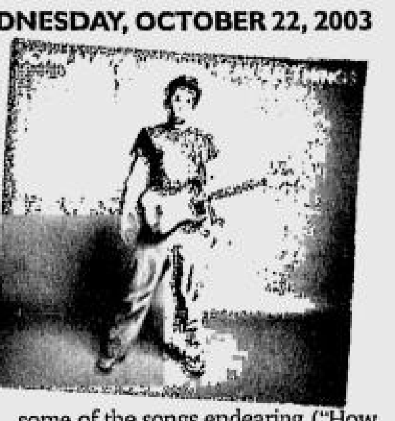
Granted the first single, "Bigger Than Your Body," has that upbeat radio-friendly tinge to it, reminiscent of a chart-topping hit he once churned out, ("Your Body is a Wonderland," anyone?), "Heavier Things" displays a more mature side of Mayer that some fans just might not be able to appreciate.

To be free

For one, he's not singing about rockin' high school halls or serenading girls about their wonderful bodies.

This time around, Mayer touches on wanting to be free from relationships ("Split Screen Sadness,") and from his monotonous life ("Something's Missing"), as well as wanting to move on in search of himself ("New Deep").

So maybe "New Deep" is a cliché ("Numb is the new deep/Done with the old me/And talk is the same cheap it's been"), but this is the too-cool-for-college-radio kid from Atlanta we're talking about. It's quite rare that a TRL prince comes up with a second album that isn't a remix of his first, which, undeniably, has landed his face on every woman aged 18-25-year-old's tack board.



"Come Back to Bed" is a nice, slow number in all its instrumental glory (not to mention what fans would soon deem one of his "sexiest guitar solos") about those petty little fights in the middle of the night ("You can be mad in the morning/I'll take back what I said").

"Split Screen Sadness" displays a confusion about relationships, where Mayer sits by the phone, ticking off the facts in his head ("All you need is love/is a lie cause/We had love but we still said goodbye/Now we're tired, battered fighters").

"Daughters" is a sweet little number about, um, daughters ("Fathers, be good to your daughters/Daughters will love like you do/Girls become lovers who turn into mothers/So mothers, be good to your daughters, too"), something that, unfortunately, prepubescent Mayer fans may not quite grasp just yet.

Although the instruments sometimes drown Mayer's vocals, it's his mumbling of musings that make some of the songs endearing ("How come everything I think I need always comes with batteries? What do you think of me?"—"Something's Missing").

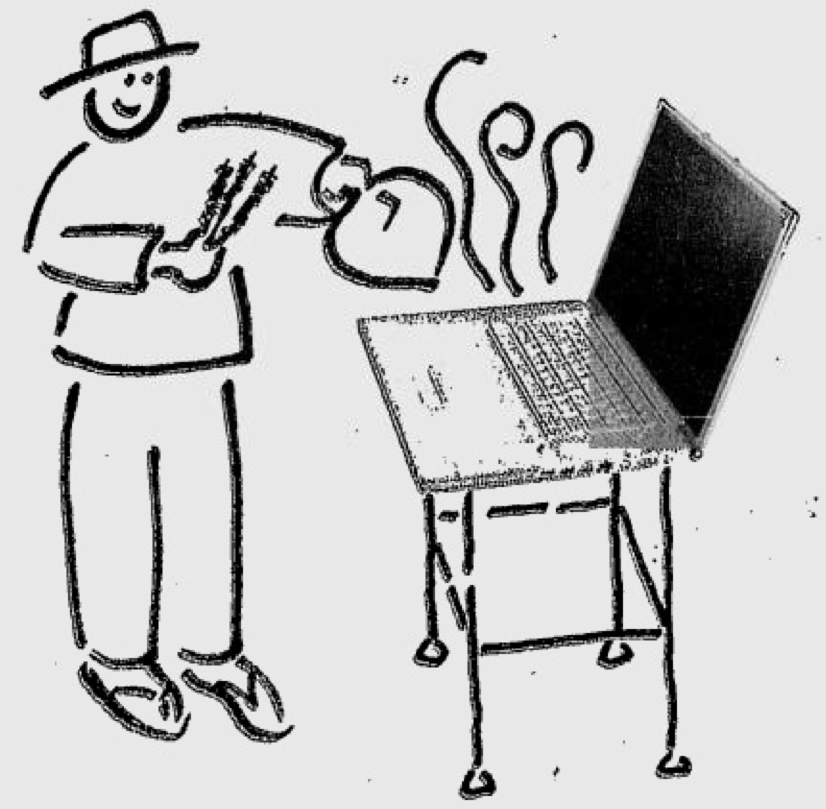
A big bonus with this package is the inlet, which includes a history for each song, cleverly color coded and pinned with corresponding themes, ranging from "Sarcastic" to "Rainy" to "Promissory," plus a "Song Creation by Location." Hey, kids, pin the song to the map of America and find out where the talented Mr. Mayer gave birth to each ditty! And while you're at it, use Figure 5, "Suggested Target Points by Song" chart (for example, "Come Back to Bed" pinpoints your heart, mouth and feet.)

All in all, we applaud Mayer for growing up. Although "Only Heart" echoes of "No Such Thing"—you've got to have some surefire radio hits on your album, right?—"Heavier Things" is a big step for Mayer. A long as he churns out heartbreaking videos where he constantly throws that half-smile of his, we're confident he won't be kicked out of the TRL charts anytime soon.

Win 'Heavier Things'!

WE love contests! Don't you? We're giving away three copies of John Mayer's new album, courtesy of Sony Music Philippines to spin all sembreak long! Just answer this Oprah-like question: "When was the last time you felt like you've matured?" (hey, if Mayer can do it…).

Send your entries to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph, no later than noon of Oct. 27 (that's a Monday). We're no stalkers, so please give us your real name as well as contact info. We won't be printing any of the responses, and no, we don't do greetings. Good luck!



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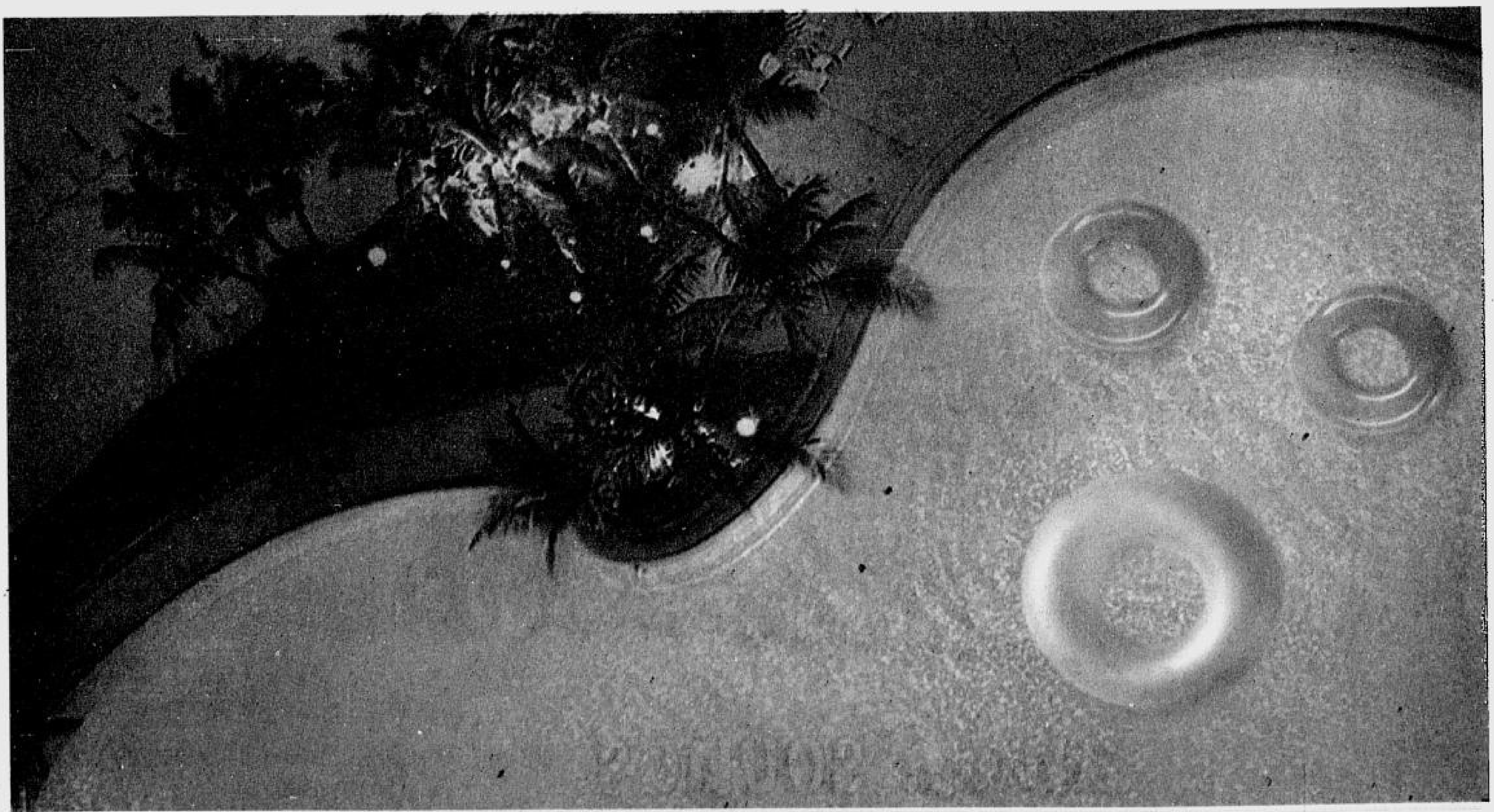

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Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 4392, Series of 2003

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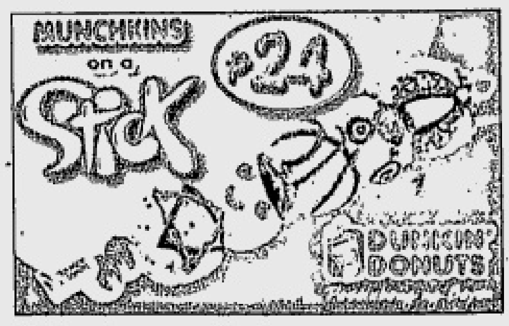

Philips handy gadgets are heaven-sent for the techno-crazy generation that wants to express themselves

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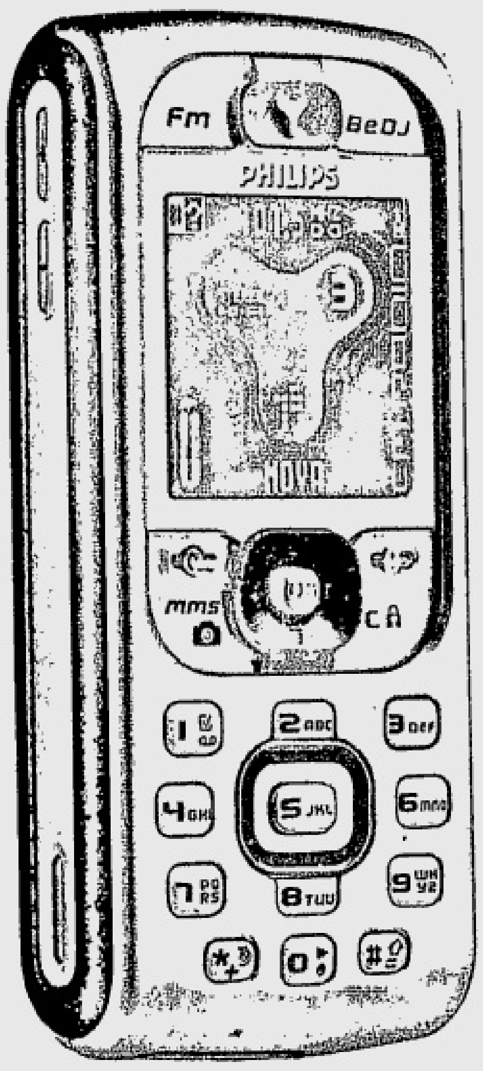
Just do your own thing

By Beia Formoso

NO longer restricted to just household appliances like TVs and stereos, or household needs like light bulbs, Philips has taken a leap into the domain of "personal expression" and has come up with products that combine entertainment, communication and access to information with urban mobility and style. Dubbed "Things to do your thing," the spanking new line-up of Philips portable hi-tech gadgets is designed to unleash your creativity and allow you to express yourself anytime, anywhere.

JUST/E3



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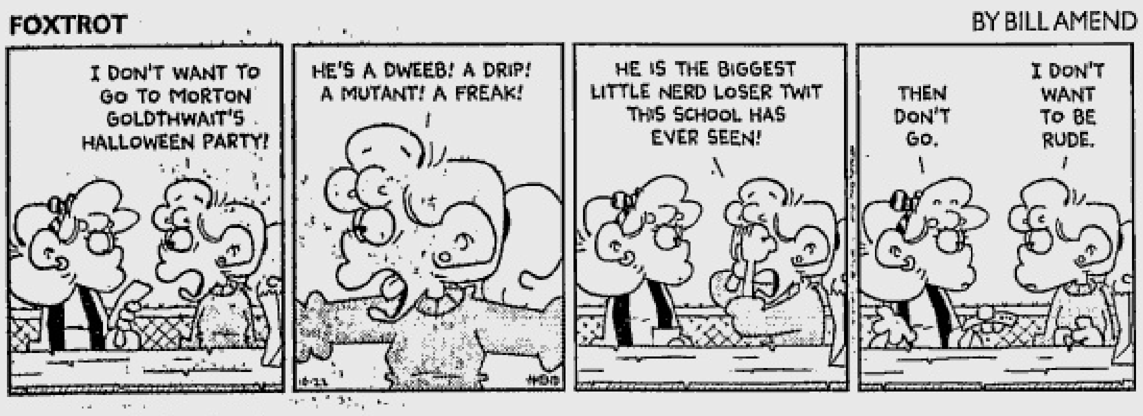
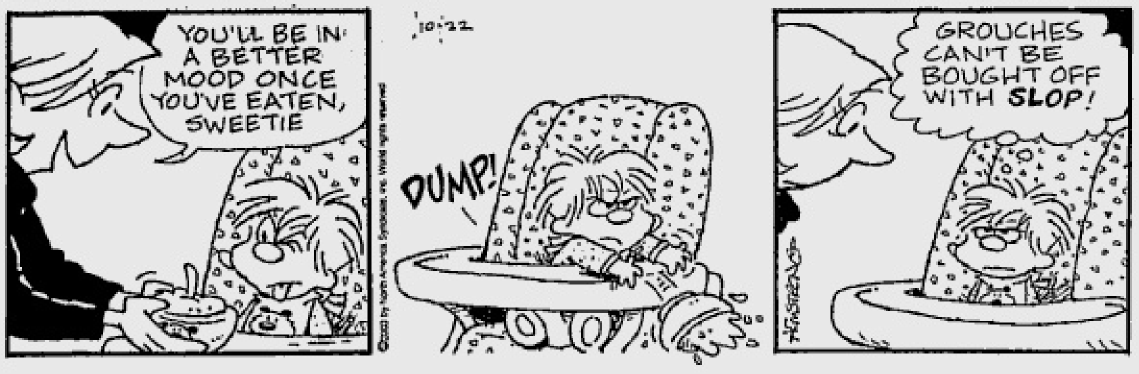
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I DON'T WANT TO GO TO MORTON GOLDTHWAIT'S HALLOWEEN PARTY!
HE'S A DWEEB! A DRIP! A MUTANT! A FREAK!
HE IS THE BIGGEST LITTLE NERD LOSER TWIT THIS SCHOOL HAS EVER SEEN!
THEN DON'T GO.
I DON'T WANT TO BE RUDE.

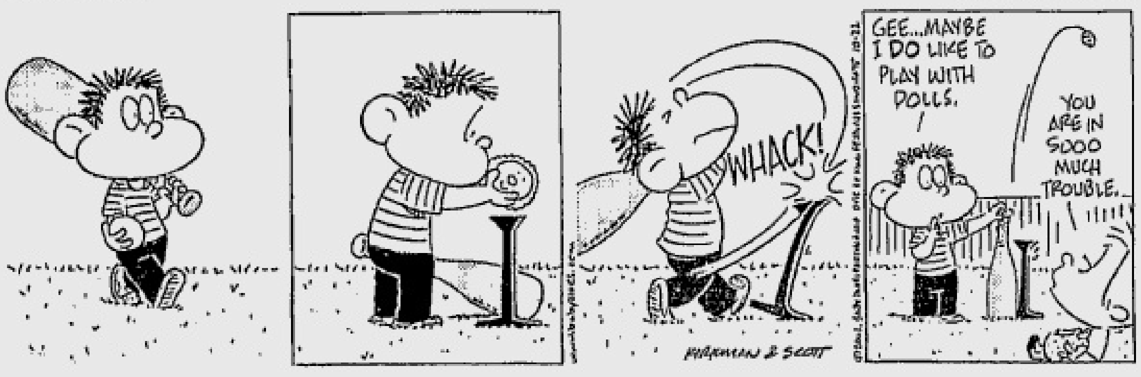
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


YOU'LL BE IN A BETTER MOOD ONCE YOU'VE EATEN, SWEETIE
10-22
DUMP!
GROUCHES CAN'T BE BOUGHT OFF WITH SLOP!

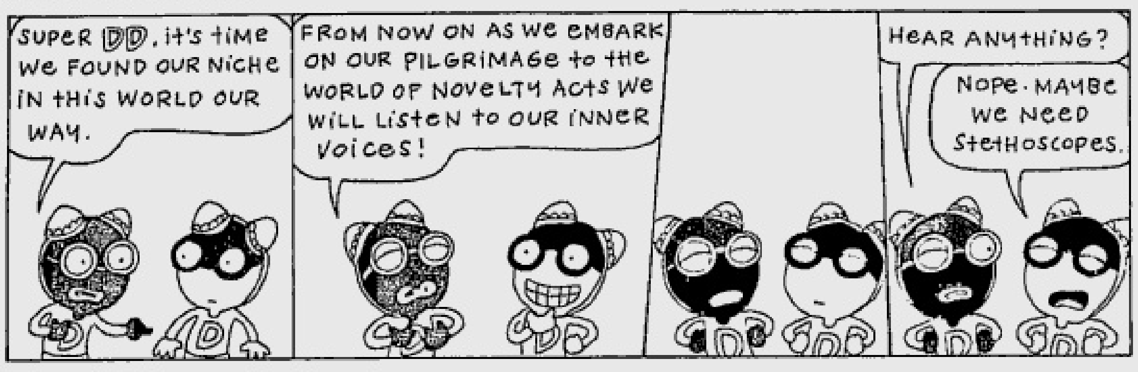
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHACK!
GEE...MAYBE I DO LIKE TO PLAY WITH DOLLS.
YOU ARE IN SOOO MUCH TROUBLE.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SUPER DD, it's time we FOUND OUR NICHE IN this WORLD OUR WAY.
FROM NOW ON AS WE EMBARK ON OUR PILGRIMAGE to the WORLD OF NOVELTY Acts WE WILL LISTEN to OUR INNER VOICES!
HEAR ANYTHING?
NOPE. MAYBE WE NEED STETHOSCOPES.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have enormous powers of seduction and magnetism. People cannot resist your charm. You are both entertaining and exciting. Because of this, you often have an interesting love life. You are in control of your emotions. Frequently, your life has big moments of drama. Important new beginnings start for you this year.

Birthdate of: Christopher Lloyd, actor; Catherine Deneuve, actress; Sarah Bernhardt. stage actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Partners might surprise you today. Even members of the general public could throw you for a loop. It's nothing you can't handle; it's just a bit of excitement.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be open to new ways of doing things technologically at work today. You see now that where one individual will fail, the efforts of the group can succeed.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Love at first sight is possible today. If it happens, it could be with someone who is quite different from you, perhaps someone from another culture or a different country.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): New, innovative ways of doing things occur to you at home today. You might also buy some kind of new technology for yourself or a family member.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You are bold in expressing your opinions today! People around you see that you are interested in being yourself and simply saying what you think.

VIRGO: (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Impulse buying is irresistible for you today. This is not wise. Tell yourself you don't have to have something right now. Wait until tomorrow to see how you feel then.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a great day for new activities and discoveries about yourself and the world around you. You might learn something about yourself that really surprises you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You feel energetic and a bit restless today. Your imagination is in overdrive. Trust your ideas, but do not act on them yet. Wait until tomorrow to see if you still agree with yourself.

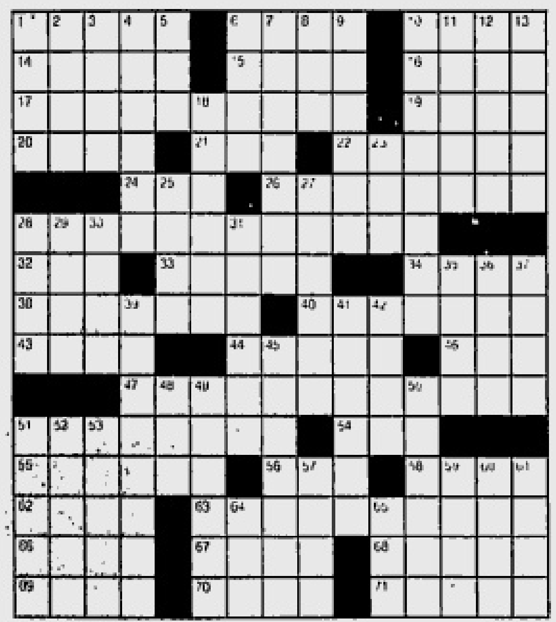
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Unusual friends or intriguing strangers cross your path today. Ordinary, daily events have a bizarre twist that surprises you. Stay on your toes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Bright, new and unusual ideas about how to earn money could interest you today. Think about these ideas, but do not act on them just yet. Wait until tomorrow to do so.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a great day to study science, astrology or any branch of technology and electronics. You are thinking outside the box today. Ideas are flying!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Don't be surprised if you feel impossibly generous toward somebody today. Act on these feelings. After all, what goes around comes around. (It will be your turn next.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

10/22/03

ACROSS

1 Fictional Doone
6 Pub choices
10 Detailed design, for short
14 United rival
15 Late-night notable
16 Cultivate
17 Cowboy's wheels
19 Pinza of "South Pacific"
20 Curly-leafed vegetable
21 Goblin
22 Dot.com biggie
24 Allen or Curry
26 Final
28 Infant's wheels
32 Fury
33 Prepared to propose
34 Absorbed-dose units
38 Play-by-play man's cohort
40 Enduring
43 Pop
44 "My Name Is ___ Lev"
46 Besides
47 Grocer's wheels
51 Merchant
54 Tibetan gazelle
55 Reflected
56 Erhard's program
58 Uttered
62 Nothin' ___!
63 Surfer's wheels
66 Sicilian volcano
67 Alan of "M*A*S*H"
68 Nobleman
69 Match divisions
70 Main idea
71 Irish county

DOWN

1 Good fortune
2 Dept. of Labor group
3 Actor Julia
4 Creature comfort
5 Genesis craft
6 Winglike
7 Exercise routine element
8 Rock composer Brian
9 Beethoven's "Moonlight ___"
10 Soft-shell clams
11 Italian pie
12 "The Waste Land" penner
13 Exact copy
18 WCTU part
23 USSR jet
25 Cloyingly sentimental
27 Chinese tree
28 Skewed view
29 River in Tuscany
30 Small globule
31 Lay down fresh tracks
35 Dog in "The Thin Man"
36 Designer Christian
37 Nae-sayer
39 Baked pasta dishes
41 Ruler measurement
42 Jason's vessel
45 Disseminates
48 Hop to it!
49 Frump
50 Offhand
51 Razzes
52 Wax theatrical
53 Contaminate
57 Ad-lib like Ella
59 India tourist stop
60 Composer Stravinsky
61 Unit of force
64 Yale student
65 Eng. channel

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

O	A	R	S	■	E	N	A	C	T	■	B	L	E	W
S	W	I	M	■	L	O	I	R	E	■	L	I	L	A
S	I	D	E	W	I	N	D	E	R	■	U	S	A	F
I	N	G	L	E	■	■	S	E	R	G	E	A	N	T
A	G	E	L	E	S	S	■	L	A	I	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	P	L	O	D	S	■	N	A	O	M	I
A	L	E	C	■	O	R	E	■	R	O	C	K	E	R
R	E	D	O	■	P	E	W	E	E	■	E	A	S	E
C	A	N	A	P	E	■	A	R	E	■	R	Y	A	S
S	P	A	C	E	■	D	R	I	V	E	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	H	A	R	E	■	C	E	L	L	I	S	T
D	R	A	W	T	U	B	E	■	■	L	A	N	K	A
E	A	C	H	■	B	U	S	H	M	A	S	T	E	R
A	N	T	I	■	E	N	S	U	E	■	T	R	I	P
L	I	S	P	■	S	K	E	E	T	■	S	O	N	S

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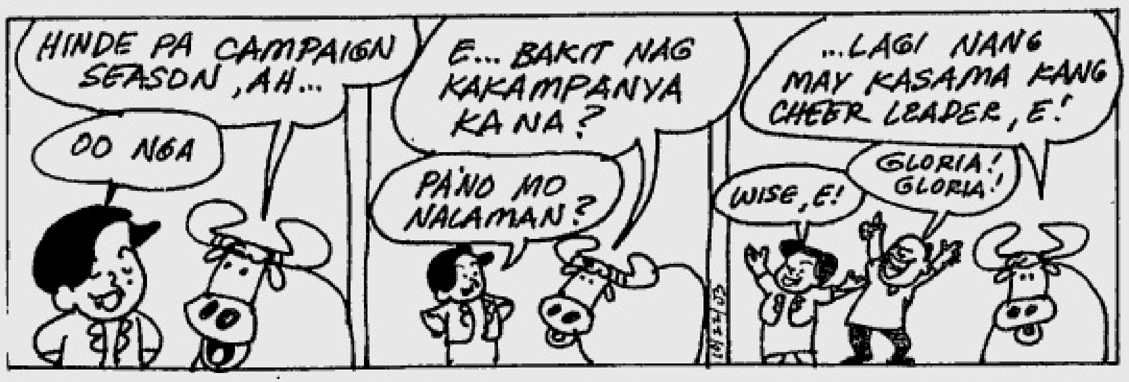
10/22/03

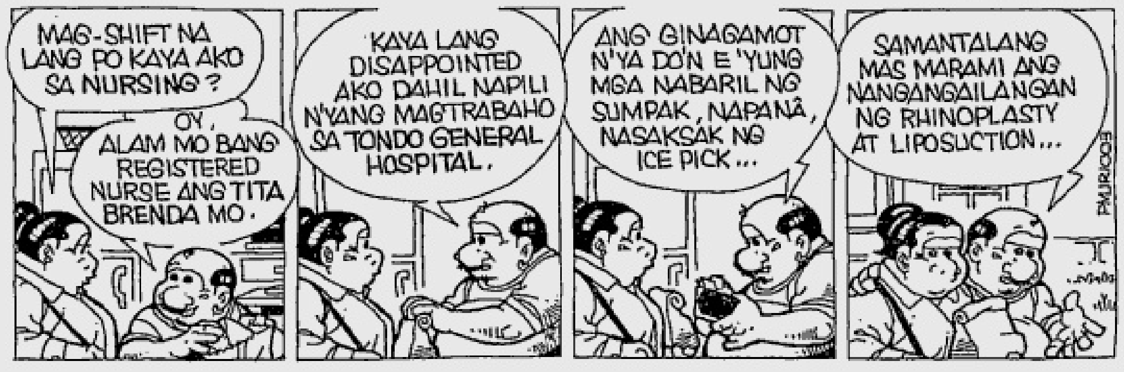
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HINDE PA CAMPAIGN SEASON, AH...
OO NGA
E... BAKIT NAG KAKAMPANYA KA NA?
PA'NO MO NALAMAN?
...LAGI NANG MAY KASAMA KANG CHEER LEADER, E!
WISE, E!
GLORIA! GLORIA!

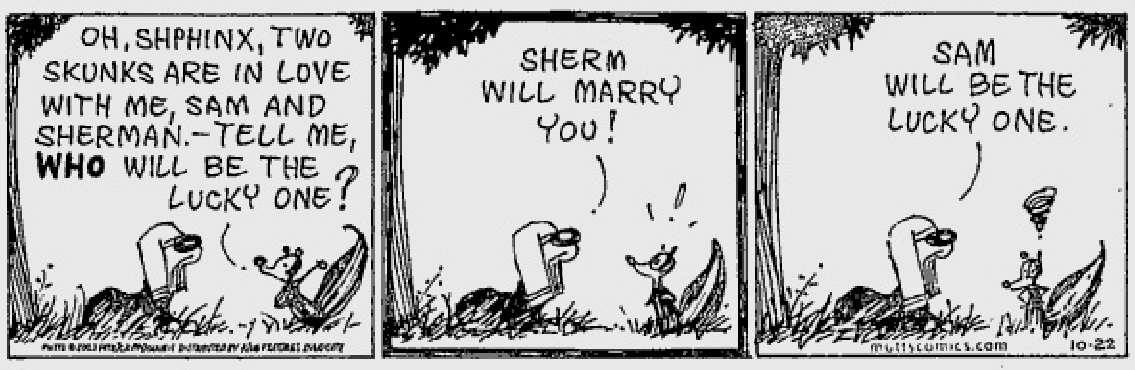
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAG-SHIFT NA LANG PO KAYA AKO SA NURSING?
OY, ALAM MO BANG REGISTERED NURSE ANG TITA BRENDA MO.
KAYA LANG DISAPPOINTED AKO DAHIL NAPILI N'YANG MAGTRABAHO SA TONDO GENERAL HOSPITAL.
ANG GINAGAMOT N'YA DO'N E 'YUNG MGA NABARIL NG SUMPAK, NAPANÂ, NASAKSAK NG ICE PICK...
SAMANTALANG MAS MARAMI ANG NANGANGAILANGAN NG RHINOPLASTY AT LIPOSUCTION...
PMJR003

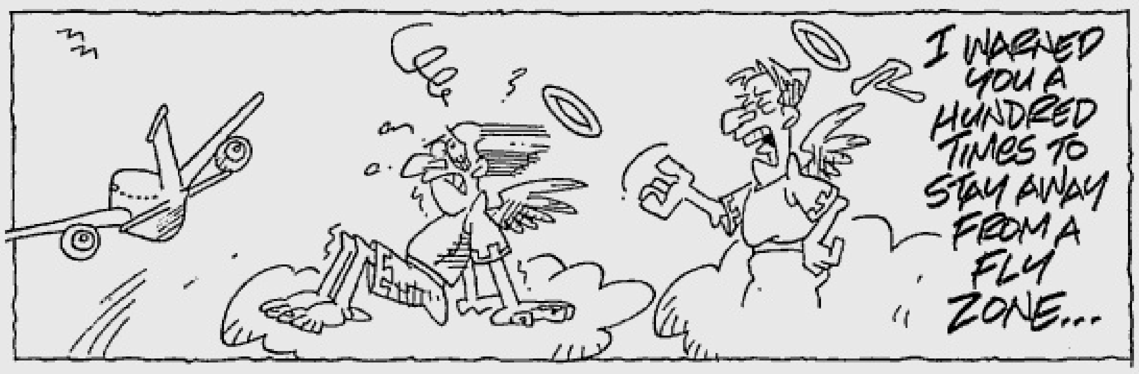
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, SHPHINX, TWO SKUNKS ARE IN LOVE WITH ME, SAM AND SHERMAN.–TELL ME, WHO WILL BE THE LUCKY ONE?
SHERM WILL MARRY YOU!
SAM WILL BE THE LUCKY ONE.
muttscomics.com
10-22

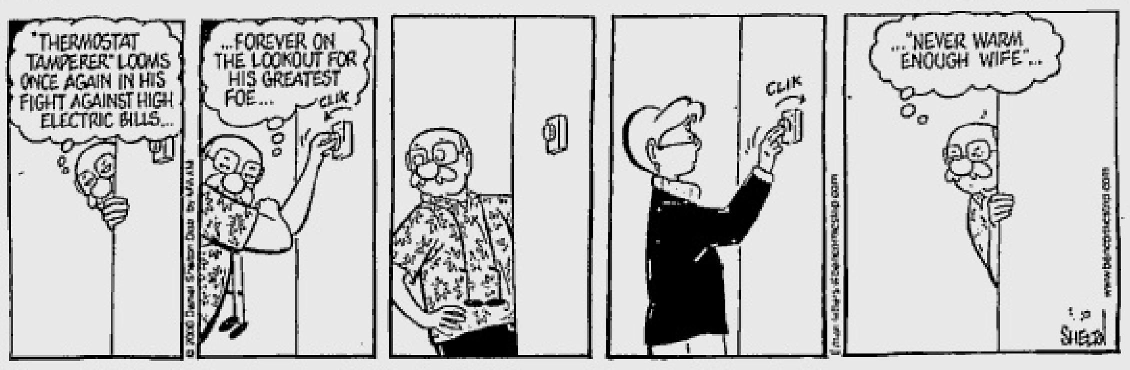
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I WARNED YOU A HUNDRED TIMES TO STAY AWAY FROM A FLY ZONE...

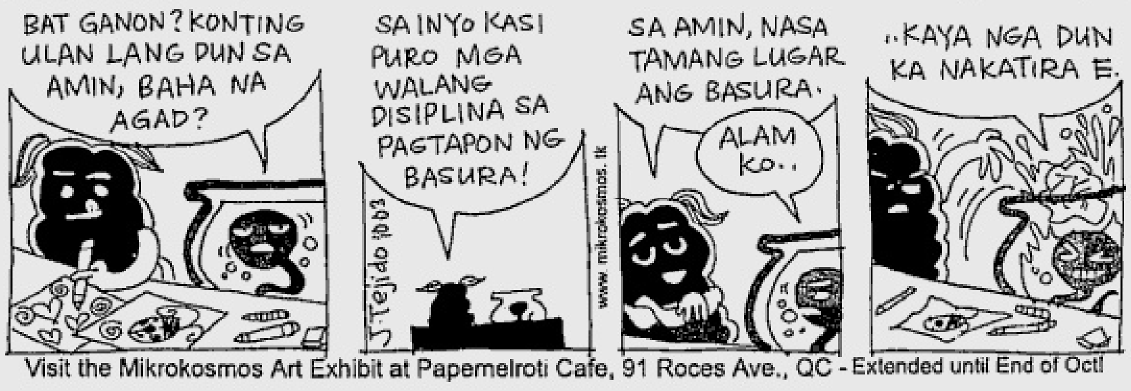
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


"THERMOSTAT TAMPERER" LOOMS ONCE AGAIN IN HIS FIGHT AGAINST HIGH ELECTRIC BILLS...
...FOREVER ON THE LOOKOUT FOR HIS GREATEST FOE...
CLIK
CLIK
..."NEVER WARM ENOUGH WIFE"...
SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS

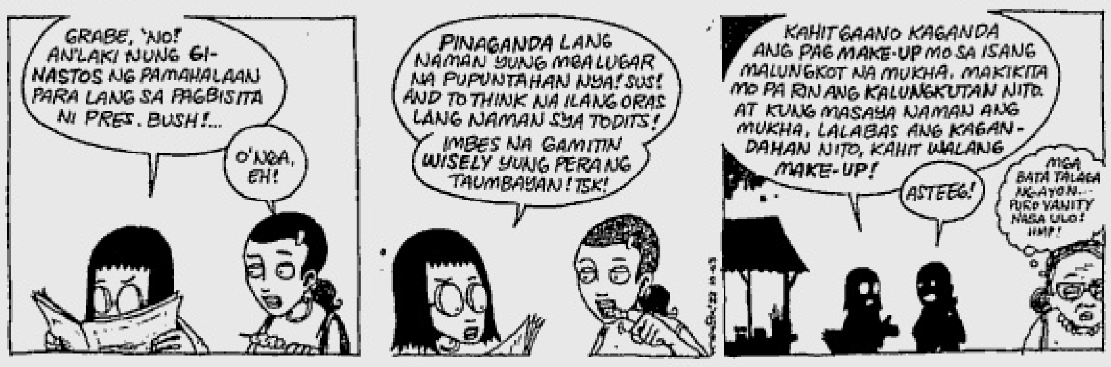
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BAT GANON? KONTING ULAN LANG DUN SA AMIN, BAHA NA AGAD?
SA INYO KASI PURO MGA WALANG DISIPLINA SA PAGTAPON NG BASURA!
J Tejido 10 03
www.mikrokosmos.tk
SA AMIN, NASA TAMANG LUGAR ANG BASURA.
ALAM KO..
..KAYA NGA DUN KA NAKATIRA E.

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Extended until End of Oct!

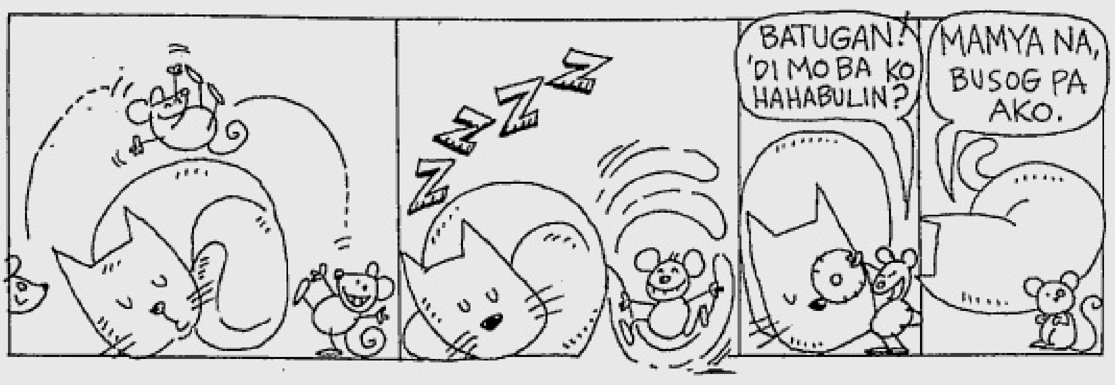
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE, 'NO! AN'LAKI NUNG GINASTOS NG PAMAHALAAN PARA LANG SA PAGBISITA NI PRES. BUSH!...
O'NGA, EH!
PINAGANDA LANG NAMAN YUNG MGA LUGAR NA PUPUNTAHAN NYA! SUS! AND TO THINK NA ILANG ORAS LANG NAMAN SYA TODITS!
IMBES NA GAMITIN WISELY YUNG PERA NG TAUMBAYAN! TSK!
KAHIT GAANO KAGANDA ANG PAG MAKE-UP MO SA ISANG MALUNGKOT NA MUKHA, MAKIKITA MO PA RIN ANG KALUNGKUTAN NITO. AT KUNG MASAYA NAMAN ANG MUKHA, LALABAS ANG KAGANDAHAN NITO, KAHIT WALANG MAKE-UP!
ASTEEG!
MGA BATA TALAGA NGAYON... PURO VANITY NASA ULO! IHMP!

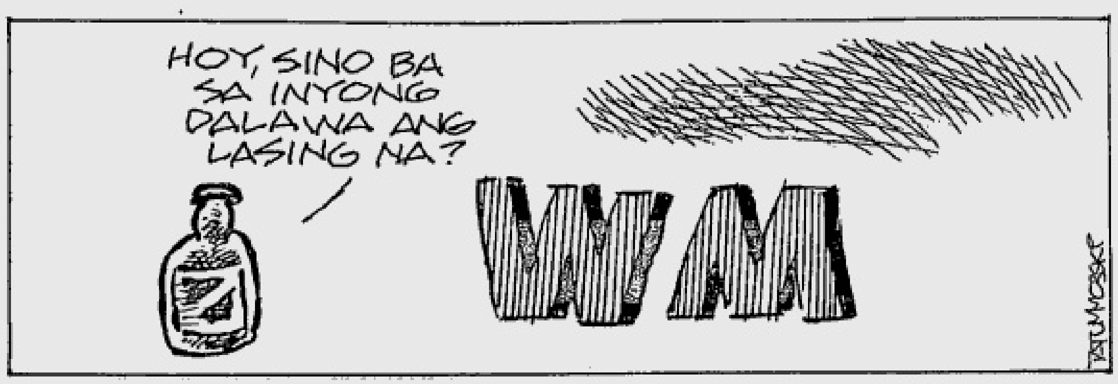
FURRY LOGIC

BY SUZIE AND CALVIN


ZZZZ
BATUGAN! 'DI MO BA KO HAHABULIN?
MAMYA NA, BUSOG PA AKO.

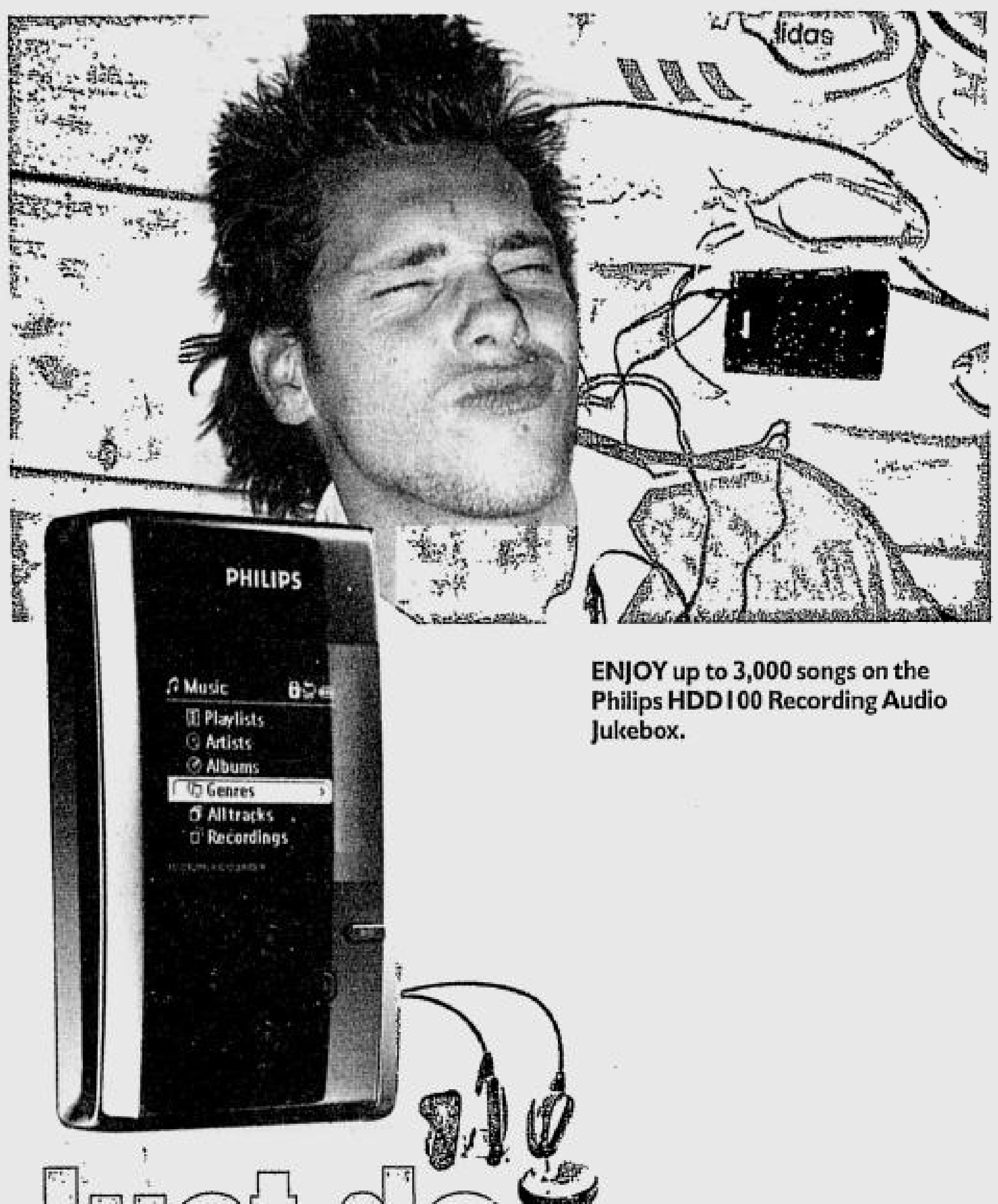
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HOY, SINO BA SA INYONG DALAWA ANG LASING NA?
WM
TATUMOSKI

WEARABLE DIGITAL AUDIO
128MB
PHILIPS
WEARABLE DIGITAL CAMERA
64MB

TAKE your pick from Philips MP3 player or digital camera key rings.


PHILIPS
Music
Playlists
Artists
Albums
Genres
All tracks
Recordings

ENJOY up to 3,000 songs on the Philips HDD100 Recording Audio Jukebox.

Just do your own thing

From page E1

Let's start with the tiniest of the lot: the Philips Key Rings. Don't underestimate these babies—they pack a mean punch as digital cameras and MP3 players with either 64MB or 128MB memory. Just a bit bigger than your thumb at three inches and super lightweight, they fit perfectly in Christmas stockings (ahem) and your pocket. Made for even the most technology-challenged, they can be stuck directly into your computer, meaning no more drivers or cables. It's the ultimate bling-bling to hang around your neck!

The audio player key ring plays either MP3 or WMA files that you transfer directly from your PC. The 64-MB one can store about a CD's worth of music while the 128-MB holds about 30 tracks. No need to fumble with a separate remote; the controls are located in the neck strap. The durable magnesium casing guarantees 100 percent skip-free music on the move.

Get that picture

The digital camera key ring comes with a USB flash memory drive and VGA picture capture that—when combined with its shape and size—makes it handy for taking pictures anywhere. The result is a 1.3 mega pixel output that you can cherish forever or share with your friends by uploading to a computer.

With the savvy Philips 530 BeDj phone, you be the DJ by composing, mixing and remixing your own sounds and music wherever and whenever the inspiration hits you. With an easy-to-use graphical interface and different levels to start on (basic, advanced, expert), you can change the tempo or instrument for each polyphonic track, even record songs from the radio or natural sounds and embed them into the tune, perfect for showing off your beat-boxing skills or your vocal prowess.

Make that tune

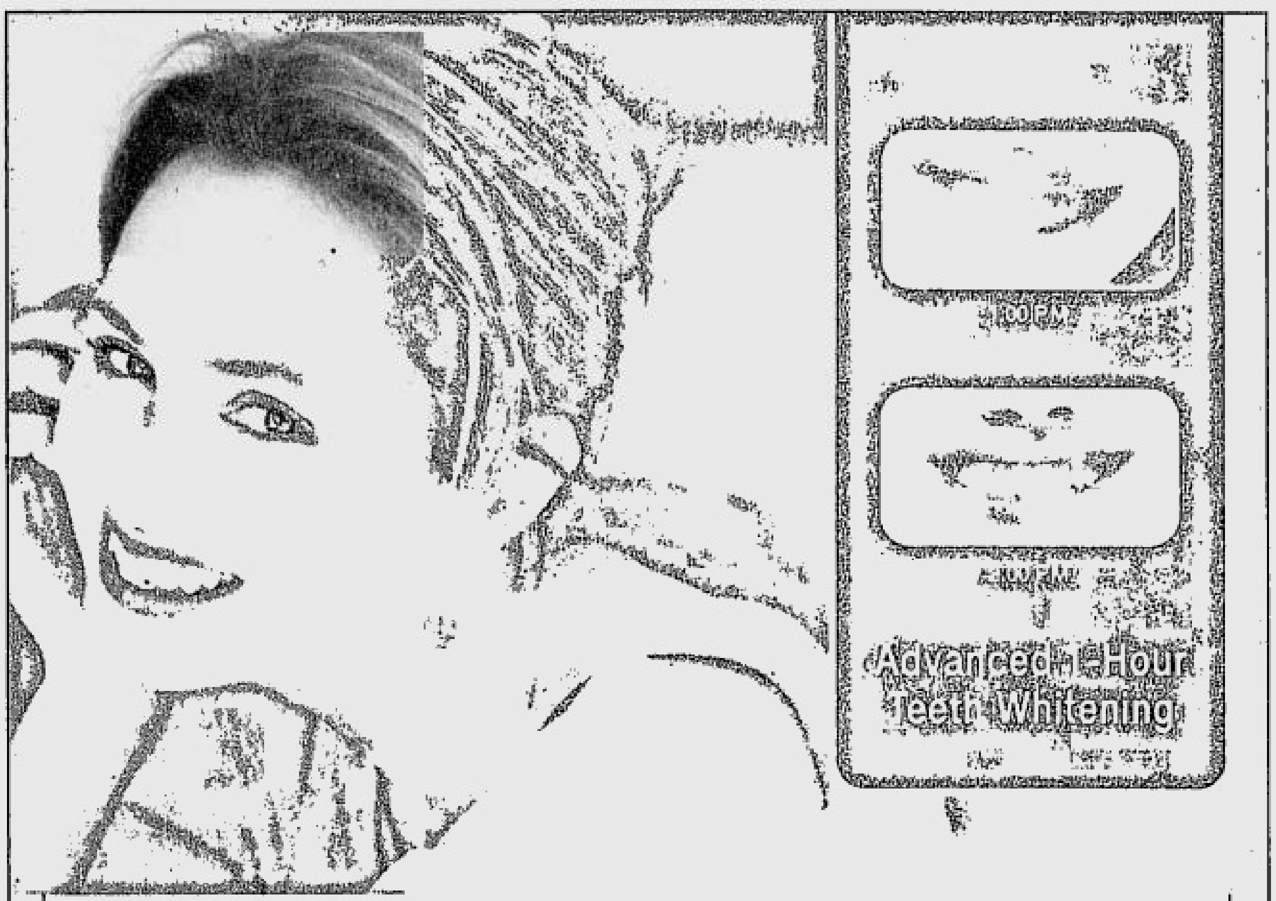
Construct your tune by mixing up to nine separate tracks in real time, meaning you can hear your mix as you go and see it come alive through the vibra and light effects. Send your musical creation to friends through MMS or infrared, or play it loud and clear for all to hear on the integrated hi-fi speaker. No need to hook it to a separate speaker. Plus there's an attachable rotating camera with 2x digital zoom and a "night mode" function so pictures are bright even at nighttime or in low lighting conditions.

The Philips HDD100 Recording Audio Jukebox is their answer to the iPOD. At only 167 grams, the Jukebox is the smallest and lightest of its kind yet it's got 15 gigabytes worth of storage and can hold about 3,000 songs. Just transfer your favorite songs (MP3 or WMA) from any PC via its super-fast USB 2.0 connection and you're all set.

The massive hard disk capacity can store much more than audio though, as it has a PC-based software that allows you to download standard graphic equalizer names and settings to suit your personal listening preferences.

Other handy perks include four programmable equalizer settings, "Superscroll" for speedy navigation, and a built-in microphone for when you want to record live performances or the lecture you'll be snoozing through in class.

So, whatever your thing, you can now do it with Philips. Whether you're the one who's always in the pictures or the one behind the camera; whether you're the type who has to listen to music wherever you go or the type who feels the need to create music—whatever.


Advanced 1-Hour Teeth Whitening

Get whiter teeth in One Hour, One Visit with BriteSmile and...Save up to 40%!

(You pay only P15,000! Offer ends 31 Dec 2003)

BriteSmile is a breakthrough technology that can restore your teeth to their natural **whiteness in one hour, one visit** to the dentist. It's so effective it can dramatically change the way you look and feel about yourself. If you've lost confidence in your smile, we can help you get it back. And there's no better time than now.

To enjoy the offer, call 02-714 1748 / 715 9057 (before 5pm) or 0927-321 5151 (after 5pm) for details or visit www.britesmile.com. Offer applies to treatment only.

Call 02-714 1748

trick-or-treat bag
lady bug & bumble bee accessories
sparkly bags & dainty eye masks
wacky bat accessories
SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN ACCESSORIES
October 1-31
at the children's accessories department
royal princess crowns
creepy fun full-head & eye masks
enchanted wrist bands & fairy wands
magical fairy wings
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We've got it all for you!
DEPARTMENT STORE
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Find the right products for healthier skin

Vanity Fare

Lora Gabol

CHOOSING the right skin care products is like choosing the right man (or woman). There are a lot of good, attractively packaged ones out there, but you can't take one home at first glance. You have to find one that specifically answers your needs—and even your wants once in a while.

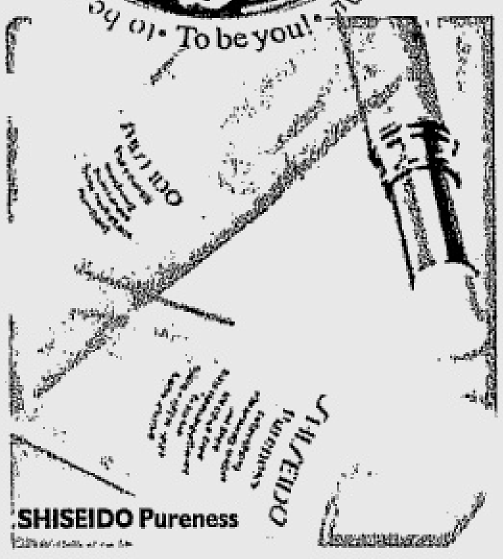
I'm pretty sure you all know how the three-step cleanse-tone-moisturize system works. And I'm just as certain that though you've religiously embraced this routine, you find that your skin still has a lot of room for improvement.

Wishing for brighter skin? Want to banish pimples? Don't know how to control oil? Find the best skin-care range from my picks.

Blemished skin

Has your face turned into a dermatologist's playground? If you notice more spots and blackheads than usual, you probably need more than a regular routine to target acne breakouts. Look for salicylic acid-based products that bust the enemies—bacteria, dead skin cell build-up, oil—all at once.

Neutrogena SkinClearing Line. Acne-fighting ingredients are usually the culprits for skin dryness, even peeling and flaking, but the infusion of natural plant extracts in Neutrogena's SkinClearing range neutralizes any irritation from salicylic acid. The foaming wash comes in liquid form but is dispensed as a foam—no need to create a lather. After you wash away all traces of dirt and oil, use a cotton pad to gently apply the SkinClearing toner, a fresh follow-up to cleansing that doesn't sting and leaves skin soft. The secret to Neutrogena's SkinClearing Essence is pure Vitamin A. More than a pimple-fighting moisturizer, it smoothes and refines skin for better texture and improved clarity.



SHISEIDO Pureness

You can also try: L'Oreal Pure Zone; The Body Shop Tea Tree Line. (If you have sensitive, blemished skin, tea tree oil is a good alternative for salicylic acid.)

Blotchy, uneven skin tone

If your skin has more patches than a quilt, it needs more TLC than soap and water. Your uneven skin tone can be caused by a lot of things, but it will always be aggravated by too much sun exposure, so before you do damage control, use prevention in the form of a heavy-duty sunscreen. (Use one especially for the face, like L'Oreal UV Perfect or VMV Hypoallergenics Armada Face Cover.) To even out your color, you need a mild whitening line with natural ingredients. No harsh bleaching agents here.

Nivea Visage White. Natural skin care at its best, Nivea's whitening range boasts of using licorice, a mild, plant-based lightening agent. Use either the facial foam or the facial scrub for cleansing-great if you hate the "dehydrated" post-wash feel. The soothing whitening toner is a winner—it gives a tingly feeling after application but doesn't strip away moisture.

During the day, protect and correct your skin with Nivea White Day Moisturizer or Nivea's Tinted Moisturizer for smoothness and light coverage sans the sticky feel. Go intensive at night with the whitening night cream enriched with Vitamin C and E and Jojoba oil (trust me, it's oil that's actually good for your skin) for brighter skin in the morning. This range is way affordable, too, perfect for the budget-conscious *kikay*.

You can also try: Neutrogena's Fine Fairness; Godiva Whitening Line

Combination skin

Does your facial skin seem confused, with dry patches and oily areas? Balance is the key to healthier skin. Find mild ingredients than won't throw off your skin's balance—botanicals or plant extracts that will moisturize dry areas without aggravating oil control.

Shiseido Pureness. This luxurious skin-care line from Japanese label Shiseido brings combination skin back to life with its oil-absorbing, hydro-balancing technology. Very relaxing and calming (the tranquil blue packaging gives it away) to use, this range is your sure bet to pure skin. Take away makeup with the lightest foaming mousse ever, or opt to use Shiseido's unique cleansing water. Pamper your skin with Balancing Softener, then finish off with the unique formula of Pureness moisturizing gel-cream that instantly melts into your skin. You'll also love their instant mattifying stick-swipe on to quickly banish shine.

You can also try: Nivea Oil Control Line; VMV Hypoallergenics for Combination Skin

Shiseido at Power Plant and Glorietta 3; Neutrogena, Nivea, L'Oreal, Godiva and VMV Hypoallergenics at leading department and health and beauty stores; The Body Shop at leading malls

E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com

STC holds fundraising concert

THE PRESENT and former Theresian Student Council officers of St. Theresa's College (STC) in cooperation with St. Theresa's Alumnae Association, Quezon City (STAA, QC) will hold a fundraiser titled <<PAST FORWARD>> Theresians in Concert 2. This concert, which will be held on Oct. 26, 5-9 p.m., at the STC High School Covered Court, will showcase the talents of past and present Theresians.

Proceeds of this concert will be given to the STAA, QC Support Group, which provides financial, emotional and psychological help to Theresians in need. Another beneficiary is the Sambayanan Educational Foundation Inc. (SEFI), which gives financial assistance to less privileged students who deserve to get quality education from STC. With the theme, Merging Yesterday's Dream with Today's Dynamic Rhythm for the Hope of Tomorrow, this concert is part of the Theresian tradition of bringing past and present students together to celebrate their commitment to service and the pursuit of educational excellence.

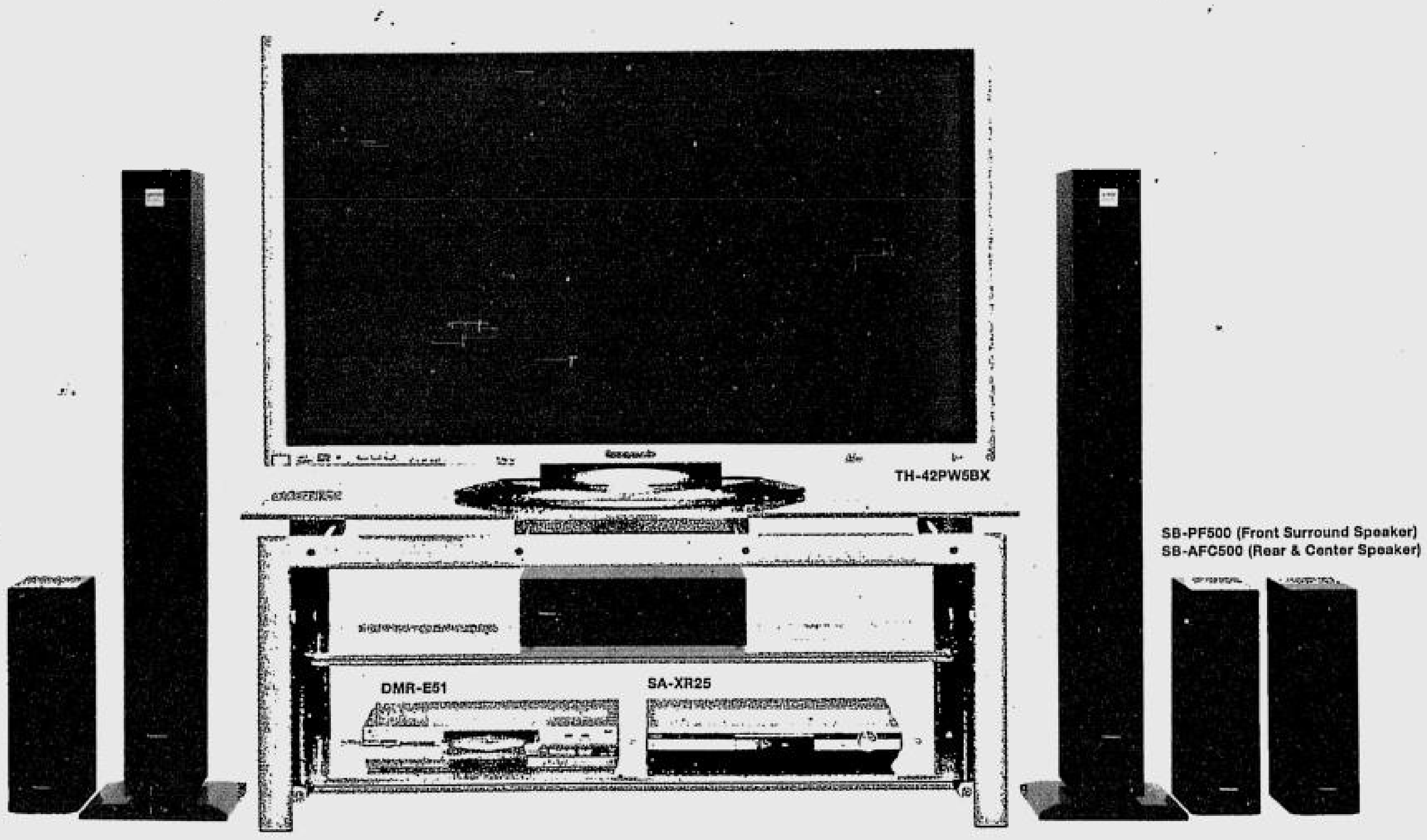
This project is organized by past Theresian Student Council officers from different batches led by project moderator Peachi Gaston and project head Nico Bambao. Other organizers are Patti Ramos, Michelle Gamez, Frances Carlos, Nikki and Lala Jara, Karen and Kristine Flores, Nina Lat, Marla Calaquian.

DLSU-GSB holds forum on social responsibility

THE DE LA SALLE University Professional Schools, Inc.-Graduate School of Business (DLSU PSI-GSB) will hold a special GSB academic forum on Oct. 25 at the DLSU Taft Campus. This event will serve to launch the GSB Research Forum Series, through the Ambassador Francisco del Rosario Distinguished Professorial Chair lecture on entrepreneurship. Dr. Benito L. Teehankee, DLSU PSI-GSB Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) program director, will deliver a lecture on "Building Ethical Organizational Cultures through Entrepreneurship."

Highlighting the forum will be the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the Academic Program Partnership in Corporate Social Responsibility between DLSU PSI-GSB and the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP). A private and non-profit foundation, PBSP is dedicated to promoting the participation of the business sector in social development. PBSP has been the business sector's vehicle in delivering organized, professional, and sustainable assistance to the Filipino poor for the last 32 years.

The Switch is On!
Panasonic


TH-42PW5BX
SB-PF500 (Front Surround Speaker)
SB-AFC500 (Rear & Center Speaker)
DMR-E51
SA-XR25

To a Plasma Cinema Experience!

Plasma reality technology
Plasma Reality Technology includes the Real Black Drive System, Advanced Plasma AI, and Real Gamma Correction that improves plasma display image quality by dramatically boosting brightness, contrast and gradation.

Intelligent DVD RAM recording
Now you can do your own DVD recording and non-linear editing. You can even transfer any video from camcorder straight to DVD for your personal DVD library. Also features Time Slip Functions which gives you a great new way to record and play.

Sound ideas
The 6.1 Channel surround for real sound, with double re-master for higher quality audio reproduction.

Panasonic
ideas for life

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2BU! FASHION FREAKS

Sneaking into bargain hunters' mecca

BOWLING bags go for P299.75 each

THIS bag is bright and beautiful. P299

THIS tote can carry all your essentials and more. P129.75

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

EARLY Friday morning, right before last weekend's three-day sale, the 2bU! Fashion Freaks sneaked into SM Megamall and were greeted by a beautiful sight.

The department store was virtually empty, save for the salesladies who were getting ready for the crowd waiting outside.

We pranced around the mall, gleefully pulling great finds off the racks until we had four shopping baskets piled high with goodies.

Sneakers of all colors for less than P300. Hot pink Steve Madden-esque fluffy slippers that will keep your tootsies warm for P179.75. Mesh tops, bowling bags, flip flops and tanks.

We were thrilled. We were delighted. We were bowled over.

Then the whistles were blown, signaling the start of the shopping frenzy.

Shoppers streamed in through the doors.

Our exit was quick.

We'll be back again some other day.

MORE BARGAIN FINDS ON PAGE F2

onstage 2nyt

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LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644	ICE KENDI SERSIDE	I-AXE EVERY MONDAY OF OCT. OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM
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MALATE ☎ 521.8143	FAT 16 MISSMO	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	EMMANUELLE MEN OPPOSE/HEARBEAT	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM [illegible] EVERY THURSDAY OF OCT. [illegible] EVERY FRIDAY OF OCT.
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268	AFTER 8/FEEDBACK THINKERS W/JOGRAD	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	P R P	OCT.29-SABOR LATINO
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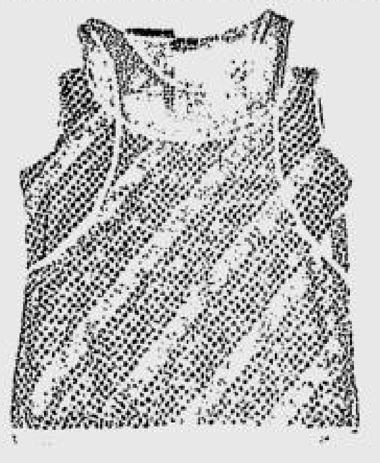
The Fashion Freaks found themselves unusually early at the mall. The goodies they found made the trip worth it

Do you want the Fashion Freaks to visit your stores or see your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.

WE'RE not Stacey Augmon fans but we're fans of this top. G-Girl, P299.75

THIS top reminds us of our grade school sando. G-Girl, P299.75



RAINBOW bright. G-Girl, P299.75

WE love the metal clasps. G-Girl, P279.75

SHOW off your skin in this top. Spice, P249.75

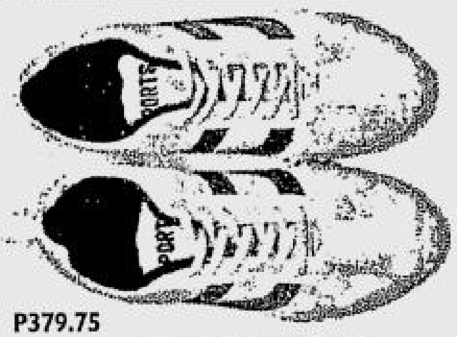
THIS studded top will give your wardrobe a boost. Diva Dolls, P279.75

FEEL like Rocky in this layered top. Redhead, P279.75

OPTICAL ILLUSION. This top will keep people staring. P299.75

THIS shirt is a work of art. P299.75

WHAT would Shakespeare have to say about this shirt? G-Girl, P299.75



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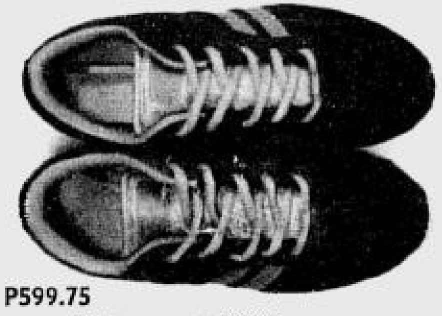

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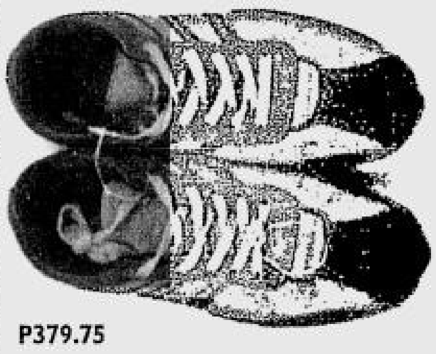

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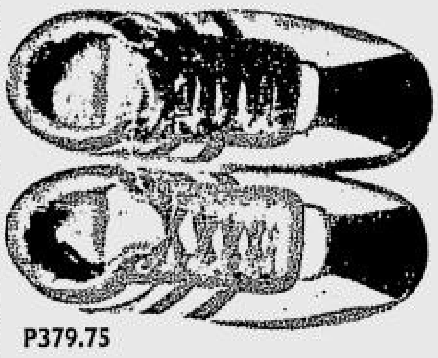

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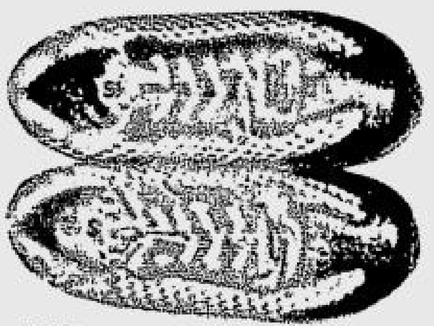

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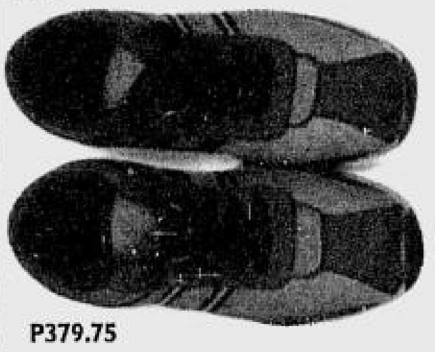

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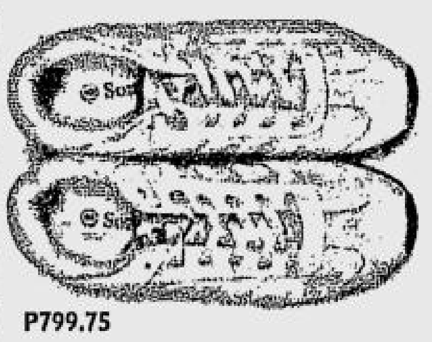
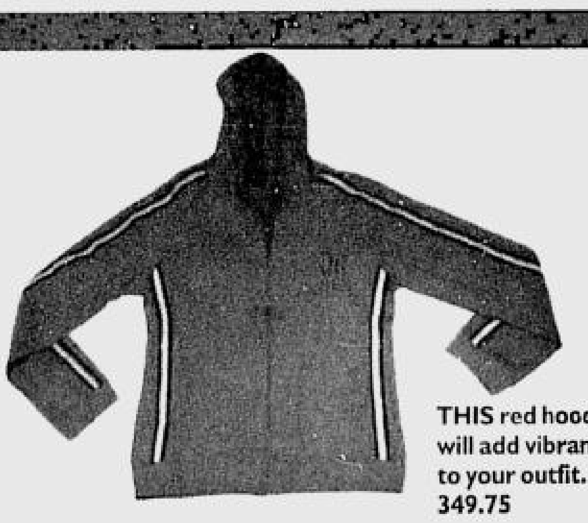


P799.75

WHO says a nice pair of sneakers needs to put a dent in your wallet? These runners will keep your feet and your pockets happy.

IF needles scare you, wear your tattoo on a shirt.Boysquad, P249.75

THIS jacket will keep your warm and pretty. P349.75



THIS red hoodie will add vibrance to your outfit. 349.75

PROTECTION from the cold and the rain has gotten even more affordable. Reef Break, P299.75

THIS jacket would look good even when wet. SDD, P349.75

YES, this is supposedly sleepwear, but it's so adorable you can wear it outside. Yalida, P169.75

YELLOW isn't just for Cory. G-Girl, P299.75.

TURN heads at your gym. Boysquad, P199.75

THIS zip-up top is a find. G-Girl, P299.75

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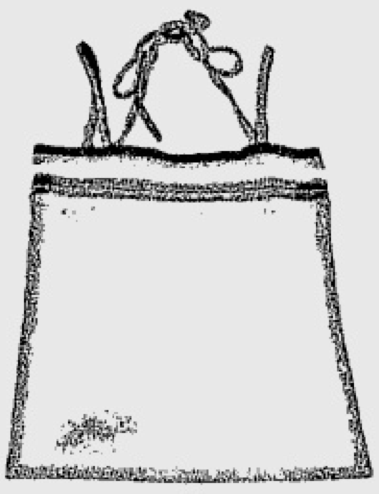
IF you've got the arms, flaunt them. Winnie Fashion, P279.75.

IF you don't have great arms, great guts will do. Winnie Fashion, P279.75.

SPORTY. This top will bring out the spice girl in you. G-Girl, P279.75.

IF you've got slim hips, it can even double as a skirt. G-Girl, P279.75.


A SPLASH of Skittles. Color never hurts. Spice, P249.75

THERE are times when number two is good enough. Ko Tat, P299.75

THIS Cupid can pick on us anytime. Diva Dolls, P249.75

MYSTIC maven. Diva Dolls, P279.75

IF this is the uniform, we want to be part of the team. Redhead, P179.75

WHO says guys can't show off their arms too? Runway Limited, P189.75

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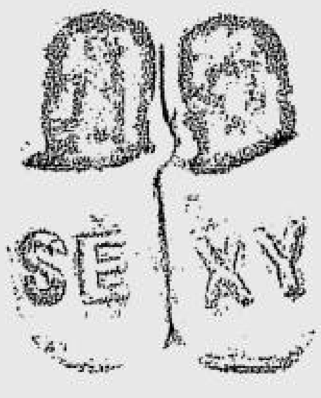
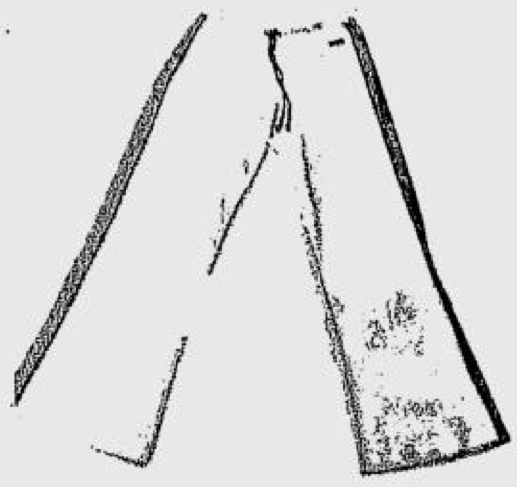
WHITE looks good on almost everyone. Boysquad, P249.75

PERFECT for cold December nights. Runway Limited, P189.75

THIS jersey skirt is fun and playful. Redhead, P279.75


EVEN Steve Madden would love these comfy feet huggers. P179.75

THIS might be your weapon of choice for bad hair days. P299.75


SO YOU'RE not an athlete. Who says you can't dress like one? Redhead, 299.75

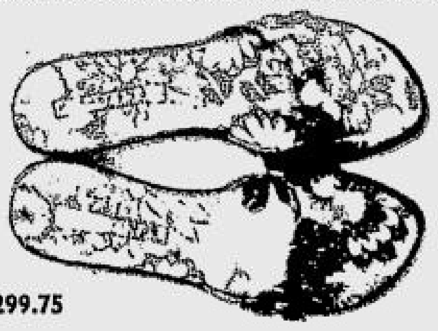
WE love the mesh accents on these capris. 2368 jeans, P449.75

FUN and feminine. P349.75

IF YOU can't buy the car, wear it. 229.75

THIS button-down shirt is major eye candy. MCG, P299.75

"I WANT to ride my bicycle..." Runway Limited, P189.75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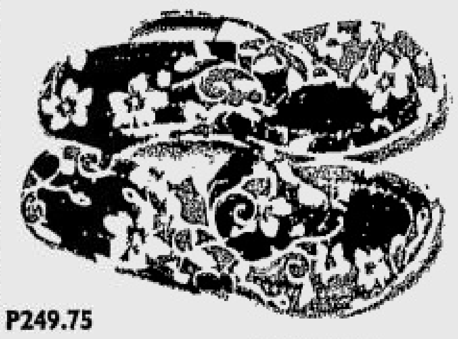
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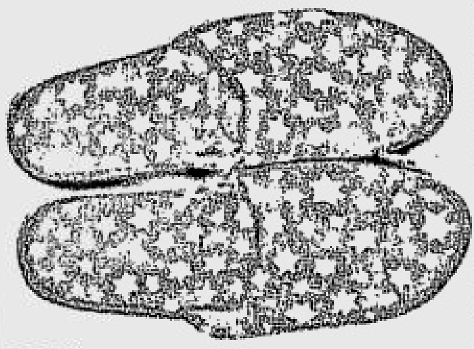
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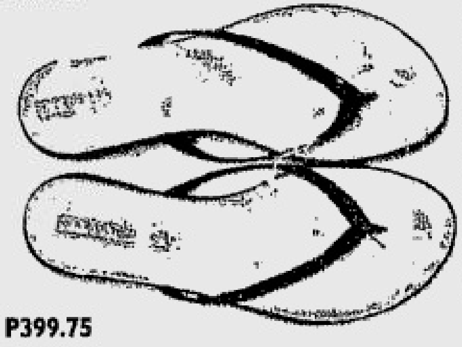
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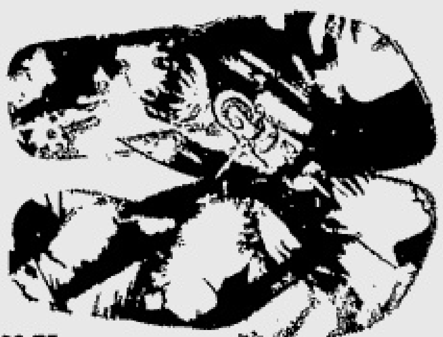
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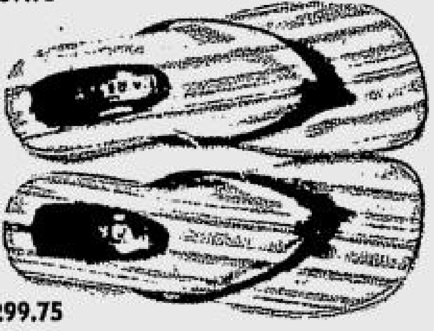
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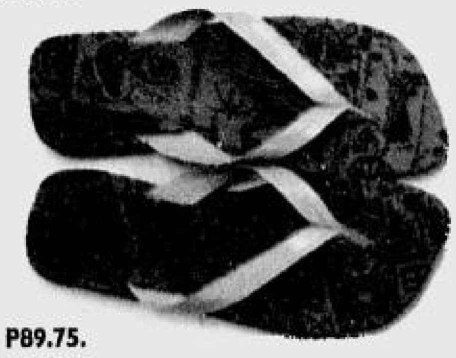
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GIVE your feet a break with these flip flops and slip-ons.

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2BU! SURVEY

We know what you did last summer, but what are you doing this sem break?

Text and photos by Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

SEMESTRAL break is *the* holiday for most college students since holy week or a summer term gets in the way of summer vacation. Plus Christmas time here in the Philippines is as hectic as exam week. "Sembreak" is three weeks of fun, rest, rejuvenation and almost everything that doesn't involve class-standing points.

Admit it, while studying for that big exam or while staring blankly at your computer, you can't stop thinking about the much-needed break.

2bU! asked some eager students how they're spending their "sembreak"? Surprisingly, the bed almost topped the beach for the season's hotspot. Here's to a sweet (and somewhat productive) sembreak!

Go to Budapest. I've never been to Eastern Europe. I always wanted to see it firsthand—**Albert, 19, Columbia University**

I'd call up all my long lost friends (found, care of Friendster) and I'll throw a big, super fun party so we can all catch up and rekindle our friendship!—**Zee Castro, 20, UP**

I plan to re-enroll myself in A1 Driving School. I wish to see the movies I missed during the past school days.—**Roxy Balmater, 17**

I plan to study and be a lab rat. If I had the time, though, I'd like to join an underwater expedition.—**Cathy Young, 20, UP Diliman**

I'm going back home to Australia and get wasted with old friends. I'm also going to watch the Craig David concert!—**Tiffany Orbien, 18**

First thing on the agenda is sleep, but after that, just want to have fun—go malling, play RPG's, go out of the country. Then I shall dread my grades.—**Therese Sua, 19, ADMU**

My semestral break is in December. For one month and I plan to go home, Yay! (And study—boo!) That is, after skiing in Romania with a couple of friends (if budget and mom allow it—actually that's synonymous *noh*? Mom says no, no budget, *payag siya*, I have full credit card access!)—**Tiffany Chua, 22, University of Cambridge**

Attend a three-day seminar then my org's planning sem, then go on a trip with my family, then turn 20! Ack! What I really want to do is lose weight, de-stress, hang out with my friends and stay 19.—**Cha Coyukiat, UP Diliman**

Workout, workout and more workout! Start trying to develop those abs that must be there somewhere.—**Katrina, 20, ADMU**

After pampering myself, I am going to hibernate. In between that, have some much-needed touch base with my *barkada*, definitely. And after all has settled, finally learn how to drive. Month-long sem breaks are great!—**Maureen Tañedo, 18, UP Diliman**

My plans are to catch up on my sleep, go to the gym, eat right this time, detox myself of all the sodas/energy drinks I have consumed and hopefully hit the beach.—**Chewey Chua, 20, UA&P**

Magpapayat, mag-jamming, *mag-gitara, lumakwatsa, uminom, magpakasabog, dumalaw sa* friends *na matagal kong hindi nadadalaw, tumambay at mag*-Jollibee *araw-araw*.—**Greg Diaz, 19, guitars, Cornedbeef**

Gym, *bawiin ang tulog, magpapayat at mag-outing*.—**Jarell Mallari, 19, ADMU, drums, Cornedbeef**

Unwind and try to regenerate brain cells lost during the semester.—**Diego Beltran, 20, ADMU, percussions, Plane Divides the Sky**

Spend time with Nino. I'm repainting my room, rearranging it, setting up my computer. Plus, I'm having an *ukay-ukay*.—**Ala Paredes, 20, ADMU, Myx VJ**

Tumugtog at uminom hanggang maging bobo.—**Francis Peña, 20, ADMU, bassist Boy Elroy**

Catch up with sleep, relax and gimmick outings.—**Tinapie P., 19, Miriam**

I plan to take advantage of lost sleeping time and I plan to obsess over the coming semester.—**Joanna Lazaro , 20, ADMU**

Be nice to old people.—**Gizmo, 20, ADMU**

Take a break from school, family and my girlfriend.—**Jason Arellano, 17, AHS**

With reports from Conrad Javier and Zee Castro

I WOULD really love to go to the beach this sembreak. I plan to go to Boracay with my friends, Cebu with my family and Baguio for the Ad Congress. If not, I will just go to the gym and work out, to the parlor to have my hair done and afterwards sleep, sleep and sleep!—Bibai, 19

I'M GOING to be a beach bum! Either Boracay or La Union. Just get some R and R (rest and relaxation). I'm also going to be out of town for an international tournament in Frisbee. We're representing the Philippines in UFC Ultimate Frisbee Champions in Taiwan. Other than that... drink, sleep and eat!—Ping Bautista, 20

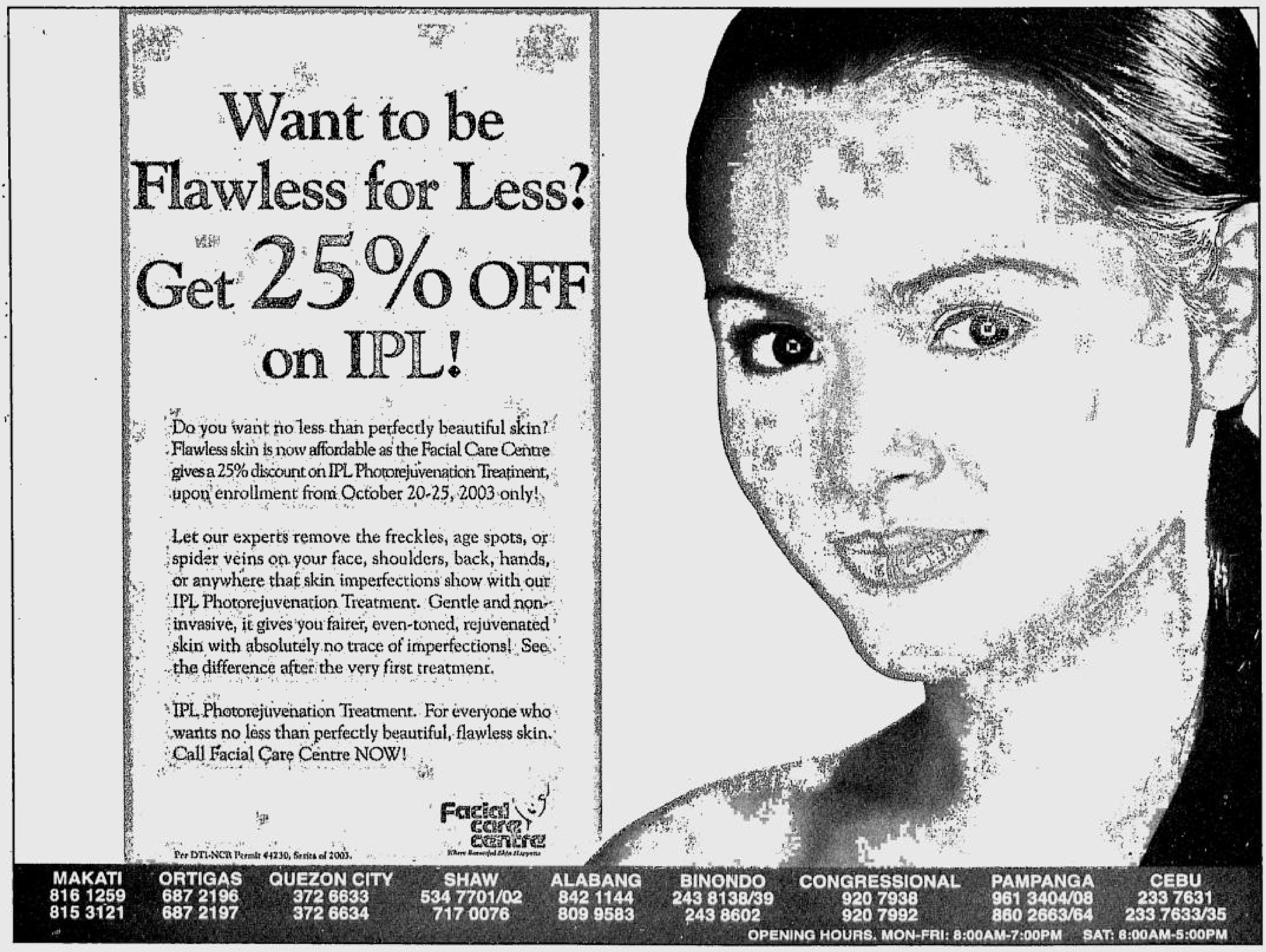
I WANT to go to the beach and learn how to surf! I want to learn how to drive and buy a dog. Also I wish to go to Fiji... I don't know why. Oh, and drink and bum!—Saji, 18

I'M going to Cebu. I'm sick and tired of being a foreigner in my own native land. Time to unwind after a semester of hard work. —Mike Marquez, 20

I PLAN to study... as if! I want to go to a spa and get a massage and relax. I wish to party all day long! Hahahaha—Rock Jarantilla, 18

SLEEP, eat, gimmick and bum!—Mej, 18

PHOTOS: TAMMY DAVID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